FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 MAY 1984

Gulf War

Military, Shipping Situation — A communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio claimed that two more vessels were destroyed by mines while attempting to flee the Iraqi naval and air attack in the Khowr-e Musa area on 25 May, thus bringing the total number of "enemy naval targets" destroyed that day to eight. Nevertheless, conditions at Khark Island to the south were "very satisfactory," with no delays in oil loading operations, according to an Iranian source cited by IRNA on 27 May. With Khark's "good defensive capability, there are no threats" to tankers loading at the island, the source charged. Iran's claim of normal activity at Khark came in contrast to an earlier INA report that tanker traffic to and from the island had "virtually stopped."

Meanwhile, Japanese shipowners and seamen agreed to stop loading oil from Kuwait and northern Saudi ports, KYODO announced. Kuwaiti officials, in press statements reported by KUNA, said Kuwait will not be harmed by the Japanese decision and noted that European countries have affirmed their willingness to continue sending tankers to Kuwait. British companies have asked their tankers not to enter the exclusion zone declared by Iraq around Khark and Bushehr, according to British oil sources cited by INA. Earlier, the Saudi oil minister warned that Lloyds of London might cancel insurance for tankers going to the Gulf, describing this as a hidden danger more serious than Iran's threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, KUNA reported.

Diplomatic Developments — Iran and Iraq blamed each other for the shipping crisis in statements carried by Tehran radio and INA over the weekend. The Iranian statement warned that Iran will reject any Security Council resolution that does not condemn Iraq as the "principal guilty party" for the attacks on Gulf shipping, while the Iraqi statement responded by accusing Iran of attempting to expand the area of conflict. A Kuwaiti official cited by KUNA likewise said that the attacks on Gulf states' tankers conceal "an invitation for foreign intervention."

In Saudi Arabia King Fahd expressed satisfaction at the results of efforts to contain the tense situation, according to an official statement on a 28 May Cabinet meeting reported by SPA. The king had earlier received Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad concerning Syria's efforts to reduce tension and prevent an expansion of the war, SPA and Damascus television reported. A responsible Syrian source cited by Damascus radio accused Iraq of attempting to disrupt Syria's mediation efforts by escalating its military operations in the Gulf.

The ICO's Good Offices Committee also discussed the Iran-Iraq war at a preparatory meeting in Jidda attended by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the ICO secretary general, and the ambassadors of seven Islamic countries, SPA reported on 26 May. 'Arafat subsequently said he intends to launch a new initiative to end the war through the Good Offices Committee, according to KUNA, while the Malaysian foreign minister disclosed in remarks reported by Riyadh radio that the committee will consider a proposal to deploy an Islamic peacekeeping force along the Iran-Iraq border during its high-level meeting on 9 or 10 June.

Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri said in a 25 May speech reported by Tehran radio that, if the Iraqi regime is deposed and power is shifted to "all groups and classes," Iran will not want reparations but will instead "render assistance" to Iraq.

Israel

Zore'a Report — Major General Me'ir Zore'a's commission of inquiry into the circumstances of the death of two terrorists captured on 12 April reached the conclusion that several individuals from the security forces committed felonies against the "terrorists" which caused the death of at least one of them, the defense minister's media adviser disclosed in an announcement carried by ITIM. Although both men received "operationally necessary" blows during their capture, the commission found that they were also beaten after being removed from the hijacked bus and subsequently died as a result of blows to the head. Noting the commission's finding that the security forces had received no orders to hurt the terrorists after their capture, the announcement said an investigation will be held to determine what legal steps should be taken against those responsible for the beatings. In IDF and Jerusalem radio interviews, Defense Minister Moshe Arens took a "grave" view of the incident but described it as a "special case" which will not happen again. He also expressed hope that PLO groups holding Israeli prisoners will guarantee their safety and well-being in order to reach "the exchange of prisoners which we are negotiating for at present."

U.S. Arms to Saudis — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reaffirmed Israel's opposition to the sale of Stinger missiles to Saudi Arabia and also promised that Israel will express its "absolute" opposition to U.S. plans to supply refueling aircraft, Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt

A "large number" of people took part in People's Assembly voting over the weekend, which was held in a "relatively calm" atmosphere, MENA reported adding that "some excesses" will be dealt with by officials of the main electoral committees. An Interior Ministry source cited by the agency termed the incidents "isolated cases." In one of the incidents, a Socialist Labor Party candidate was killed by a relative of a NDP candidate from the same constituency, according to a statement issued by the district attorney of Qina Governorate and reported by MENA.

Al-Wafd Party and National Progressive Unionist Party sources cited by KUNA raised allegations of election violations, including ballot rigging, burning of ballot boxes, and obstruction of opposition party election officials. Al-Wafd leader Fu'ad Siraj ad-Din said he has proof of vote rigging that he will produce at a forthcoming press conference, and he claimed that his party would have won 70 percent of the Assembly seats had there been no fraud, according to AFP. The Al-Wafd leader asserted that the party will use "all legal means" to defend its rights but will not boycott the Assembly, the agency added.

Initial results reported by MENA show the NDP leading its nearest competitor, the Al-Wafd, by a two-to-one margin in most of the districts reporting results. The MENA figures indicate voter turnout in these districts was less than 40 percent.

Lebanon

Military Situation — Three Israeli soldiers were killed and two others were wounded when their vehicles came under fire at the southern end of the Al-Biqa' valley on 27 May, Jerusalem radio announced. The ambush occurred near Kamid al-Lawz in an area which has become a focus for attacks on the IDF by infiltrators from Syrian-held territory, the radio noted. The clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio spoke of tension along the Syrian-Israeli confrontation lines in the wake of the attack, asserting that the Israelis fired at Syrian positions that evening. Further south, another IDF soldier was wounded in a 28 May ambush near An-Nabatiyah, the IDF spokesman disclosed in an announcement reported by IDF Radio.

Beirut radio reported sporadic clashes across the contact lines in the capital in recent days. A number of Americans moved from the western sector to East Beirut in response to kidnap threats, and tight security measures were imposed at the American University of Beirut because of fears of an attack by Shi'ite extremists, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon and AFP.

Political Developments — Israeli officials cited by Jerusalem radio "flatly" denied that the Lebanese Government has formally requested the closure of the Israeli representation office north of Beirut. Nevertheless, the Syrian paper *ATH-THAWRAH* welcomed the Lebanese Government's "national decision" to close the liaison office at Ad-Dubayyah, asserting in an editorial reviewed by Damascus radio that this "important step" completes the abrogation of the 17 May agreement.

Meanwhile, Karami announced in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio that the government will seek a vote of confidence from the Chamber of Deputies on 31 May. Earlier, a Lebanese magazine cited by KUNA claimed that President Amin al-Jumayyil and the national unity government headed by Karami were the target of a recent abortive coup attempt planned by pro-Israeli elements of the Lebanese Army and the Phalangist Lebanese Forces headed by Samir Ja'ja'. The magazine, *AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI*, said the plot was foiled after being discovered by Lebanese Forces intelligence chief Elie Hubayqah, following which President al-Jumayyil asked Fadi Afram to dismiss Ja'ja' from his military position. Without mentioning this story, the Progressive Socialist Party's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio subsequently reported that Ja'ja' has been dismissed from his command position in the Jubayl area.

Syria

Vice President Rif'at al-Asad arrived in Moscow 28 May at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, TASS and Damascus radio announced. Following his arrival, Al-Asad and Candidate Member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo Vasiliy Kuznetsov held talks on developments in the Middle East, promotion of Syrian-Soviet cooperation, and the international situation, Damascus radio reported. During the talks, Al-Asad called for increased cooperation and condemned the war waged by the Iraqi regime against Iran.

PLO Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn discussed "all aspects" of developments in the Palestinian arena during talks in Amman on 26 May, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. 'Arafat had said earlier that the resumed Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue would focus on the joint concept of holding an international conference on the Middle East, the radio noted.

Libya

Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's "obsession" with setting up anti-Libyan terrorist camps led Libya to make preparations to form "suicide commandos" who will destroy all terrorist training camps in Sudan and liberate the Sudanese people from Numayri's rule, according to an article in *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* reported by JANA. The article asserted that if the United States, Britain, and their "stooges" harbored enemies of the Libyan people, this implied that they had decided to bear the consequences of these actions. In a related report, JANA claimed that captured "terrorists" belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood had given complete information on the anti-Libyan training camps in Sudan. The "terrorists" confessed that instructions for sabotage and assassination operations in Libya were issued by Numayri, according to JANA.

Algeria

The Movement for Democracy in Algeria held its inaugural congress in France over the weekend, Paris radio disclosed. Former President Ahmed Ben Bella, the founder and leader of the new opposition party, sharply criticized the present regime during a speech at the conference, calling for a pluralist system in Algeria and for the return of Algerian emigrants to their home country.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Leadership Sends Anniversary Message to USSR
LD270316 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the following message from the PDPA Central Committee, Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Council of Ministers has been sent to the leaders of the USSR:

Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Comrade Nikolay Aleksandrovich Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers:

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council and Government, and all people of Afghanistan, we express heartfelt and sincere congratulations on the occasion of this auspicious day in the history of Afghan-Soviet relations — the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and the USSR to the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, USSR Government, the great fraternal people of the Soviet Union, and to you, dear comrades.

The foundation of friendly relations and relations based on equal rights between the masses of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union was laid after the victory of the Great October Revolution by Vladimir Ilich Lenin, leader of world proletariat and founder of the first socialist state in the world, whose bright name is dear for the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan and progressive mankind.

Good neighborliness, equality of rights, mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, nonintervention in the internal affairs and reciprocal useful cooperation were, and today are, those moving forces of Leninist principles which provide all-round and ever increasing development of Afghan-Soviet relations.

The establishment of Afghan-Soviet diplomatic relations, like the official recognition of the independence and complete sovereignty of Afghanistan by Soviet Russia, was an act which had enormous historical importance for our country. Relying on the friendly and unselfish support from its great northern neighbor, the people of Afghanistan had the opportunity to greatly increase their efforts in the just struggle for restoration of national independence. The friendship between our people has proudly stood the test of time and has been tempered and strengthened further. The victory of the national democratic revolution in Afghanistan in April 1978 opened new, wide prospects for the development of relations between our people and countries.

Relations of friendship and good neighborliness between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, which have developed over the course of the history, have been further enriched qualitatively, have acquired a true fraternal nature, and have been transformed into unshakable relations, internationalist revolutionary solidarity, and fruitful all-round cooperation.

The selfless internationalist assistance of the Soviet state to revolutionary Afghanistan for the development of its national economy, construction of a new society, defense of the national sovereignty, and independence are bright manifestations of these relations.

Soviet cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, science, and culture, and training of Afghan national cadres are of valuable and uncomparable importance for afghanistan.

The people of Afghanistan, the PDPA, and the DRA Government have feelings of profound and sincere gratitude for the fraternal support given by the great Soviet Union to the cause of the April Revolution and our struggle against intervention and aggression by imperialist and reactionary forces.

We assure you, dear comrades, that we will preserve cooperation and solidarity with the USSR, other socialist countries, all progressive and peace-loving forces, and will comprehensively strengthen it. We express the firm belief that fraternal friendship relations and reciprocal useful and fruitful Afghan-Soviet cooperation will continue to be further deepened and enriched in the interests of our countries' workers, strengthening peace and security in the region, Asia, and all over the world.

On the occasion of this auspicious anniversary in the history of Afghan-Soviet relations, we further wish great successes for the fraternal Soviet people, the Leninist Communist party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Government and you, dear comrades, for the realization of great tasks envisaged by the CPSU's 26th Congress, in honorable struggle to eliminate tension, further disarmament, preserve peace and security on our planet, and for the progress of mankind.

[signed] The Central Committee of the PDPA, the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Council of Ministers

News Conference Marks Anniversary
LD272245 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] To mark the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, a news conference was held this morning in the Soray Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present at the news conference were: Roman Akhramovich, president of the Asia and Africa Institute, Moscow University, and deputy head of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society; Dr [name indistinct], deputy head of the General International Issues Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mariana Robinova, senior sciences staff in the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow.

Prof Roman Akhramovich spoke on the friendly and fraternal relations between the DRA and the USSR. Speaking of the historical roots and broad aspects of these relations, he said: Based on the principle of peaceful existence, equal rights, good-neighborliness, mutual respect, and proletarian interna-

tionalism, our people, together with the people, party, and state of Afghanistan, have withstood with honor the test of time, after the new qualitative development stage.

A BAKHTAR correspondent adds that during this news conference, the head of General International Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shed light on the assistance and aid of the land of the soviets to the DRA, and in answer to a question, he said: We always respect the mutual interests of our countries in pursuance of the principle of equal rights of countries [as heard]. And based on this principle the friendship treaty of 1919 between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan is counted as a historically important and effective step in the political, social, and economic life of the peoples of our two countries.

Recalling the friendly and fraternal relations between the peoples, parties, and governments of the two countries, which truly helps toward the consolidation of peace in the region, [words indistinct] support the peaceful, principled, and constructive proposals of the DRA concerning the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan and considered them a valuable and useful step in consolidating peace in the region and in the world.

Dr Mariana Robinova spoke about the shameless and reactionary interference of the imperialist and reactionary circles, headed by U.S. imperialism, in the internal affairs of revolutionary Afghanistan, in particular after the new development stage of the April Revolution. She said: The courageous and heroic people of Afghanistan, under the leadership of the PDPA and the DRA Government, with the help and cooperation of the fraternal socialist countries, will achieve final victory and will succeed in neutralizing the imperialist intrigues and conspiracies.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that representatives of newspapers, journals, magazines, and other publicity organizations took part in the news conference.

Dost, Gromyko Exchange Greetings

LD270612 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0423 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Kabul, May 26, BAKHTAR — Shah Mohammad Dost, member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, has sent a congratulatory message on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union.

In the message, deep gratitude is expressed for the wide-ranging fraternal (?assistance) of the great Soviet Union to Afghanistan, and the friendship and cooperation between the two countries after the triumph of the revolution and people have been further promoted is also stressed. This relation is now based on the principles of revolutionary international solidarity.

Likewise, a congratulatory message addressed to Shah Mohammad Dost has been received from Andrey Gromyko.

Karmal Sends Greetings to AAPSO Congress

LD290614 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Kabul, May 28, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, has sent a message of greetings to the participants of the Sixth Congress of Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) in Algiers.

He has added in his message that AAPSO has played a successful role in the development of national liberation movement of the Arab peoples. AAPSO, the message says, has become an important organ for carrying out struggles against imperialism and for national liberation in the interest of the people of the both continents.

Today, due to the aggressive policies of Reagan's administration, the continents of Africa and Asia have changed to the vistas of imperialist aggression.

The creation of structures such as Centcom and plans for the establishment of military bases and deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles in these regions endanger the peace and security of the peoples in these two continents.

The appropriate respenses of the peoples of Asia and Africa towards the conspiracies and plots of imperialism headed by the USA in collusion with Chinese hegemonism launched against the Nonaligned Movement as well as keep burning the hotbeds of tension in south and southeastern parts of Asia, Middle East, and other parts of the world can be the ever more powerful solidarity in a united anti-imperialist and anti-hegemonist front. [sentence as received]

Now it has been proven that the socialist countries, first of all the Soviet Union, are with the Afro-Asian people. Relying on the solidarity of the socialist community, the Afro-Asian peoples heroically struggle against imperialist aggressions.

The Afghan people feel the vital importance of this solidarity in the daily life, the message emphasized.

Babrak Karmal expresses confidence that the Sixth Congress of AAPSO would play a significant role towards the ever further consolidation of Afro-Asian peoples solidarity and in enhancing their struggle for the socio-economic construction of their countries as well as in rebuffing the war-mongering conspiracies of imperialist circles.

Successful Anti-Rebel Operations Portrayed

Parvan Rebels Crushed

LD261811 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] As a result of operations carried out recently in Parvan Province, a number of rebels were crushed. During these operations, the security forces seized 15 antitank mines, 3 wireless communication sets, one recoilless gun with 3 shells, and 10 light

weapons with 3,000 rounds, and destroyed 5 DShK's, 5 rocket-launchers, 20 antitank mines and 15 enemy hideout places.

A spokesman for the country security force told a BAKHTAR correspondent that as a result of other operations by the security forces in villages of Chahar Borjak District, Nimruz Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and a quantity of their weapons destroyed.

The spokesman added that in other successful operations by the country's security forces in Farah Province, a number of counter-revolutionary elements were eliminated along with their ring-leaders, (Alam Nur) and (Gol Ahmad), five of them were wounded, and a number of weapons were seized.

Another report says that in successful operations by security forces a number of counterrevolutionary elements were captured in (Naw Niaz) village of Chahar Asiab District [Kabul Province]. Eight light weapons with 1,500 rounds, a number of hand grenades, and a quantity of anti-state leaflets, which [6 seconds break in transmission] armed group of 89 men led by (Zabet Mohammad), was recently captured in Andarab District, Baghlan Province, as a result of heroic operations by the country's vigilant security forces. A number of these criminals were crushed.

A source of the Baghlan security forces said that as a result of these operations one rebel nest was completely destroyed. Two DShK's, assorted weapons with ammunition, and a number of propaganda leaflets were seized from the enemy.

Jami'at-e Islami Band Captured

LD271728 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] According to a spokesman of the security forces, as a result of successful operations and cooperations of the noble people of Parwan Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed in the villages of that province; 12 of them were captured and 15 assorted weapons, along with 1,000 rounds of ammunition, 9 antitank mines, 19 antipersonnel mines, 20 hand grenades, 160 mortar mines, 4 recoilless rifles, 12,640 rounds of DShK and ZK1 ammunition; and a foodstuffs store were seized by the security forces. Four machine guns, 4 rocket launchers, 2 equipment stores, 5 antipersonnel mines, and 24 enemy hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of a successful operation by the security forces of the country mounted in Andarab District, Baghlan Province, some 80 members of the Jami'at-e Islami band, headed by Zabet Samad, were captured and an equipment dump belonging to them was seized by the security force.

Also as a result of successful operation in the villages of Takar Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and 6 of them were wounded. A number of weapons were seized from these criminals.

During another operation which was mounted in the Marmol gorge, Balkh Province, 220 DShK rounds, 6 rocket launcher shells, 27 antitank and antipersonnel mines, and 48 mortar mines were seized by the security forces.

Also as a result of a successful operation in the Nari Ghashi areas, Khost District, Paktia Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed; 1 missile and 4 antitank mines were seized by the security force.

In the Koshk District and Baban and Babajiin villages, Herat Province, a number of armed rebels belonging to the Jami'at-e Islami bands were crushed and 3 were captured.

According to another report, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed in the Char Bagh village, Sar-e Pol District, Jowzjan Province; a number of weapons together with anti-state documents were seized by the security forces and an enemy hideout has been destroyed.

Qandahar Criminals Seized

LD281516 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1245 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Kabul, 28 May (BAKHTAR) — Quoting a source of Qandahar Province's security force, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that a number of armed rebels were crushed and nine of the criminals were captured as a result of successful operations by the security forces of that province. A quantity of weapons, ammunition, and propaganda leaflets, which prove their direct links with imperialist countries, were seized.

According to another report, in operations carried out by the heroic security forces of Paktia Province in the Bazarak region of that province, a number of members of criminal rebel bands — these traitors to the homeland and revolution — were crushed. One mortar and one DShK belonging to them were destroyed.

Quoting a source of Baghlan security force, the BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of successful operations by that province's security forces in Andarab District, a number of armed rebels, belonging to one of the counterrevolutionary bands, were crushed. A quantity of weapons and ammunition, 22 antitank and personnel mines, and 2 food caches were seized from them. Similarly, three DShK's, two rocket-launchers, two ammunition stores, and one hideout were destroyed.

Kabul Citizens Aid Panjsher Residents in Valley Return

LD262235 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 May 84

[Excerpts] A large number of Kabul citizens who in a huge convoy last week went to Panjsher to take active part in collective work, in the reconstruction of Panjsher, and in returning peaceful life to the people of Panjsher, today returned to Kabul after performing fruitful and constructive work.

During their stay in Panjsher, Kabul citizens, with revolutionary enthusiasm and fervor, took active part in the construction and repair of mosques, schools, water reservoirs, bridges, cleaning of

irrigation canals, repaired roads and state buildings, and prepared the conditions for a peaceful life for the people of Panjsher.

A BAKHTAR information agency correspondent who went to Panjsher with this huge convoy reports that the convoy of Kabul citizens, incuding Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of Kabul City Party Central Committee and head of the Central Zone; and a delegation comprising representatives of the Ministries of Mines and Industries, Agriculcure, Electric Energy, Irrigation, and Education and Training, and of party and social organizations, went to Panjsher via Kabul-Chaikar-Golbahar. Upon arrival in (Anaba), the convoy was warmly welcomed by the elders and toilers of (Anaba), officers and troops of the Army and Sarandoy units, and groups of revolution guards and the Kabul City party organizaton stationed there.

Immediately after the arrival of the convoy in (Anaba), a meeting was held attended by the toilers of Panjsher District, secretaries of Parvan and Kapisa Provincial Party Committees, members of the Parvan National Fatherland Front, and officers and troops of the Army and Sarandoy units stationed in (Anaba).

At this meeting, Zohur Razmjo conveyed greetings and best wishes from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to the toiling people of Panjsher, who have returned to their homes and started their peaceful lives after the crushing of Ahmad Shah's criminal band. The message was warmly welcomed.

According to the BAKHTAR correspondent's report, as a result of collective work in (Anaba), the communal mosque and the school were repaired and painted, water reservoirs and bridges were built, and water canals were cleaned. Also, one waterpump and two plows were given to the peasants. One diesel generator with 140-kw capacity, was installed in (Anaba) to provide lighting purposes. The work to extend the cables is continuing. A diesel generator with 140-kw capacity has also been supplied to provide lighting in Rokha, central Panjsher District, the assembly work of which will begin soon. Similarly, as a result of collective work in Bazarak, (Rahman Kheil) canal, which is 10 km long, and Jangalak Canal were cleaned, and water now runs in them.

Participants of the collective work transferred 7,000 seir [1 seir — 7 kg]of flour from the Bazarak main road to depots elsewhere. The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that sufficient quantities of foodstuffs and other goods, which were taken to Panjsher by Kabul citizens, were distributed to deserving people.

Zohur Razmjo and the head of the Central Zone during their 1-week stay in Panjsher inspected the process of collective work, laid down the foundation stone of a high school in Rokha, and inaugurated a health center there.

The Rokha health center, with medical personnel and sufficient medicine, worth about 1.2 million afghani, is in the service of the people of Panjsher.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Panjsher's wireless communication unit was also inaugurated by the head of the Central Zone with a telephone call to the governor of Parvan Province. With the installation and activation of this unit, more facilities in communication between Panjsher and central Parvan Province and other provinces were provided.

Exploitation work also began in the emerald mine of (Khenj) by a group of engineers from the extraction department of the Ministry of Mines and Industries.

Propaganda groups of the Kabul City party committee wrote revolutionary slogans during the collective-work week on both sides the main road of Panjsher and posted large quantities of slogans and posters on the walls and villages of Panjsher District. During their journey back to Kabul the convey of Kabul citizens were greeted along the way by workers of Golbahar textile mills, teachers and students of Golbahar, and party and government personnel, students, members of social organizations and large number of Charikar citizens.

Judicial Delegation Sentences Criminals in Provinces

LD271734 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] A judicial delegation of the special revolutionary court who had gone to the Provinces of Fariab, Jowzjan, Balkh, and Samangan to assess and investigate cases under the authority of that court today returned to Kabul.

A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting the delegation, reports that the judicial delegation of the special revolutionary court in an open session in Maymana, Fariab Province, considered the case of Mohammad Omas son of Merza Alam, who was a member of Harakat-e Islami [Islamic Movement] band. The judicial panel found him guilty of evading military service, joining a rebel group, raping his little (?sister), and killing his father-in-law and brother-in-law, and sentenced the accused to death according to the principles of democratic justice and observation of revolutionary legality.

According to another report, in an open session held by the judicial delegation of the special revolutionary court in Mazar-e Sharif city, the case of Mohammad Hasan Son Bye Mohammad, known as Mamur Hasan, was considered. He was found guilty of cooperation with Golboddin band, bringing arms into the country, and armed robbery of defenseless people's properties, and the accused was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment. The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that thousands of citizens of Maymana and Mazar-e Sharif attended these open sessions and welcomed the decisions of the court concerning these criminals.

Mujahidin Operations Throughout Country Depicted

Convoy Ambushed in Qandahar

GF251930 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1717 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] In the untiring crusade of our Muslim mujahidin brothers against the occupying Red Army and the misled men of the Babrak Karmal's puppet regime, the noble and heroic sons of the

Muslim nation of Afghanistan have inflicted crushing blows on the heretic enemy. According to reports received from reliable mujahidin sources, in a bloody battle on the Qandahar-Herat highway, our mujahidin brothers succeeded in destroying 18 of the military vehicles and armored personnel carriers of the enemy.

Reports received add that another violent battle took place in the center of Qandahar city between the Muslim brothers on the one side and the Soviet invaders and their mercenaries on the other. In this battle, which lasted 6 hours, at least six of the enemies of the religion of our country were killed and five of their tanks were destroyed.

Guerrilla operations by our mujahidin brothers in the center of Kabul and its suburbs continue with full intensity. According to reports received from Kabul, the roads leading to the capital are every now and then blocked to the vehicles of the enemy by our brothers. Thus, the fuel and spare parts for the vehicles which are stockpiled in their bases cannot be used by them. This has also raised the price of fuel and food. The widespread operations of our mujahidin brothers have resulted in economic difficulties for the heretic enemy and its mercenaries. One egg now costs 15 afghanis and one litre of milk costs (?100) afghanis.

After the crushing attacks by our brothers in Herat Province against the joint forces of the Soviet Union and the misled mercenary forces of Babrak Karmal, 10 of the enemy were killed and 12 of them were captured by our Muslim brothers. Among the dead were officials of the security force of Babrak Karmal. Similarly, a quantity of arms also fell into the hands of our mujahidin brothers, and two of the misled men of the puppet regime of Babrak Karmal surrendered to our brothers with their arms. In another battle in the (Dahan-e Zolfiqar) area, an enemy tank was destroyed by a rocket of our mujahidin brothers and all occupants of the tank were killed. The battle in this area is continuing.

Kabul Roads Blocked

GF261842 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1717 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Our mujahidin brothers attacked the military post of (Pol-e Safid) in Kabul and succeeded in killing a number of the misled people of the regime of Babrak Karmal. According to reports received from the strategic valley of Panjsher, our mujahidin brothers in their strongholds are busy in reorganizing their forces to face the occupying Soviet forces and the mercenaries of Babrak Karmal. Simultaneously with these steps, our brothers continue to ambush and attack the heretic enemy. The field of these operations is so vast that the logistic movements of the Soviet forces are facing great difficulties. Reports received say that the roads leading to Kabul continue to be blocked by our mujahidin brothers, and it is very difficult for the forces of the invading enemy and Babrak Karmal to use these roads. As a result of this blockade, fuel for Kabul is being supplied with great difficulty. Reports received add that long queues are seen near gas stations.

Following the chemical bombardment on the villages and nonmilitary areas by the Soviet occupying forces, the heretic enemy has brought more than 100 packages containing anti-gas masks via (Surkhundi) border. Reports add that these masks are used by the Red Army forces when they start chemical bombardment of the villages and nonmilitary areas of the Muslim brothers. This step of the Soviets shows their weakness and defeat in face-to-face battles with our mujahidin brothers and the revolutionary force of the Afghan people.

According to reports from reliable mujahidin sources, defections in the army of Babrak Karmal are increasing, and at least 11 soldiers and officers of the enemy have surrendered to our mujahidin brothers along with their arms and have returned to the ranks of Islam. The growing number of defections in the ranks of the Babrak Karmal army has reduced the size of his military arm so much that they have reduced the enlistment age several times. Orders were recently issued to the enlistment headquarters stating that people 16 to 18 years old may be enlisted to make up for the losses.

Three other persons from the Karmal regime and Soviet spies have been tried in revolutionary courts by our mujahidin brothers and have been sentenced to death. One of them was Mohammad Nasir, son of Mohammad Hashim, who held the post of the head of the intelligence department and used to spy for the mercenary regime and its Soviet masters. The other person was Hafizollah, son of 'Abdur Rehman, who used to collect information for the invading force and the mercenaries of Babrak Karmal. The execution order has been carried out.

Retaliatory Attack Kills 10

GF271148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] The Afghan revolutionary Muslim fighters in Afghanistan during Ordibehesht [21 April to 21 May] of the current year attacked a joint military column made up of Soviet occupationist and government troops in the Moqor-Zabol region. In this clash, 1 tank of the occupationist forces was destroyed and 30 government soldiers, including 4 officers, were killed. The occupationist and government forces in retaliation bombarded the region and killed 10 revolutionary Afghan fighters.

Indian Envoy Handed Protest Note on Delhi Incident

BK291308 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Dhaka, Mr I.P. Khosla, was called to the Foreign Ministry today and was handed over a strong protest note against an incident that occurred yesterday in front of the chancery of the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Dhaka today that supporters of Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] and Hindu Manch [Hindu Forum], numbering between 150 and 200, gathered in front of the Bangladesh Chancery in New Delhi yesterday afternoon and chanted anti-Bangladesh slogans. The leaders of the demonstrators also delivered provocative speeches against Bangladesh. The demonstrators at one stage turned violent and threw brickbats at the chancery building, causing extensive damage to the property of the high commission, the spokesman added. The Indian high commissioner was asked to convey to his government the urgent necessity to take measures to fully ensure the security of the Bangladesh High Commission and its personnel.

Paper Reports 21 May Awami League Meeting

BK290050 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 May 84 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] The Bangladesh Awami League demanded immediate withdrawal of Martial Law and announcement of a specific date for holding of parliamentary polls. It also demanded transfer of power to the elected representatives.

The party made this demand in a resolution adopted in the public meeting organised by its city unit on Monday [21 May] at Baitul Mukarram.

Sheikh Hasina President of the Awami League in her speech at the public meeting called upon the people to compel the Government through a united movement to hold parliamentary elections first. She said that programme for future movement would be announced after Ramzan.

Sheikh Hasina said that her party wants the end of Martial Law in the country forever. She added that Awami League is demanding the parliamentary election first so that the elected representatives can decide the future of the country to bring an end to the progress of grabbing power by using the Armed Forces.

The Awami League chief said that President Ershad bluffed the people in his broadcast on May 12. She said that during dialogue President Ershad in principle had accepted the demand of lifting Martial Law and to hold parliament polls first. But in his broadcast he shifted from the earlier position.

She observed that the present government would not accept the five-point demand without movement. She called for united movement to achieve the demands.

Referring to the remark by a government functionary that the Awami League was an election prone party, the Awami League chief said that her party had always struggled to achieve the rights of the people. Independence was also acheived under the leadership of the party, she added. She further said Awami League was a party which was engaged in movement to achieve the demands of the people.

Reiterating the demand for holding free and fair election, Sheikh Hasina said that to hold fair elections President Ershad, his ministers, and the government officers should not intervene in the polls.

She alleged that when the government was spending crores of taka for organising a political party adequate relief was not provided to the flood affected people in the eastern districts.

Mr Abdul Malek Ukil said that nothing was acceptable short of lifting of Martial Law and holding of parliamentary elections first. Criticising President Ershad, Mr Ukil said that the President held dialogue on the basis of five-point and was now telling that it contains nothing. The Awami League Presidium member further said that his party does not want to share power but would realise demands through movement.

In a resolution adopted at the meeting the party expressed concern over clash in the Bangladesh-India border. It held that because of a submissive policy persued by the present government they could not resolve disputes with the neighbouring country.

In another resolution the meeting said that the present Government has failed to ensure normal life of the people because it could not provide them with essential commodities at reasonable price.

Sheikh Hasina Leaves for Algiers AAPSO Congress

BK240755 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Dhaka, May 24 (AFP) — Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of Bangladesh's 15-party opposition alliance and chief of the Awami League, left here today for Algiers to attend the Congress of Afro-Asia Peoples' Solidarity beginning on Sunday.

Sheikh Hasina told reporters prior to her departure this morning that she would ask the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation to initiate a trial of the killers of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first president of Bangladesh.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led his country in the independence war against Pakistan, was killed at his home, along with most of his family members in a bloody coup in August 1975 when he was president of the republic. The Awami League leader said that she would also tell the congress in Algiers about the "oppressions being suffered by the people of Bangladesh at the hands of the military regime."

Sheikh Hasina is accompanied by a four-member delegation from Bangladesh.

Shots Exchanged in Kashmir With Pakistani Forces

BK291330 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] New Delhi, May 29 (AFP) — Eight Pakistani and two Indian soldiers were killed in an exchange of fire along the control line in disputed Kashmir last week, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported today. It said Pakistan's reinforcements, including command formations and heavy artillery, had been building up in force since the clash.

In a dispatch from Punch, a border town on the Indian side of Kashmir, PTI said that Pakistani troops penetrated 500 metres (yards) into Indian territory at Khalasa Pahadi in the Poonch-Rajouri sector last Tuesday and fired when challenged. According to PTI, the Pakistanis fired without provocation after establishing a position on the Indian side of the control line. The agency said that eight Pakistani and two Indian soldiers died in the firing.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars — in 1947 and 1965 — over their claims to ownership of Kashmir since India was partitioned in 1947.

Exchanges of fire continued intermittently for three days and stopped after the Pakistanis evacuated the area, PTI said. On Friday, there was a further exchange of fire at Shahpur Kerni in the same sector, the agency added. Pakistani soldiers were seen digging trenches and establishing posts in no-man's land in Shahpur Kerni area, PTI said.

Meanwhile, students in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-held Kashmir, attacked the residence of a former judge who had sentenced to death the leader of a Kashmir independence movement, PTI said.

Maqbool Butt, founder leader of the Kashmir Liberation Front, was hanged in New Delhi in February after being found guilty of murdering two Indian officials in Kashmir. His execution came a few days after the kidnapping and subsequent killing of an Indian diplomat in Britain by Kashmiris thought to be sympathetic to Mr. Butt.

PTI said the former judge, Milakanth Ganjoo, was not at his house when the attack took place. It added that the students fled when the police arrived.

President Singh Discusses Relations With Pakistan

BK261025 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] President Giani Zail Singh has said that cordial and cooperative relations between India and Pakistan would best serve the mutual interest and the cause of peace and stability in the region and in the world. The president made these remarks while accepting the credentials of the new Pakistani ambassador, Dr Humayun Khan, in New Delhi this morning. Giani Zail Singh said that India and Pakistan have to work persistently toward this objective and both countries are determined to persevere in the course.

Referring to the recent endeavors directed toward bringing about progressive normalization of relations between the two countries, the president said that the establishment of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission is a positive development. The president expressed the hope that the next meeting will make further progress.

Earlier, the new ambassador of Pakistan, Dr Khan, said that the earnest desire of Pakistan is to work single-mindedly for the promotion of peace and good-neighborly relations between India and Pakistan.

Defense Minister Venkataraman Visits Poland

For reportage on the visit of Defense Minister Ramaswamy Iyer Venkataraman to Poland that began on 23 May, see the Poland section of the 29 May Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Police Fire on Demonstrators at Bangladesh Commission

BK281445 Hong Kong AFP in English 1429 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] New Delhi, May 28 (AFP) — Police killed at least one person and wounded 17 others when they opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators who tried to storm the Bangladesh High Commission here today, a police spokesman said. Some 2,000 people representing a previously unknown organization called the Hindu Manch (Hindu Forum) were demonstrating outside the mission, situated in a southern district of the capital. "They turned violent and pelted stones on the mission. We used batons first and when that proved ineffective, we fired 20 rounds," police spokesman P.S. Bawa said.

The Hindu Forum's general secretary, Jagdish Abrol, said the crowd was fired on from inside the mission. A Bangladesh High Commission spokesman dismissed the charge. "We do not have guns here. The allegation is baseless," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The demonstrators were protesting against the confisaction of property of people who fled to India from what was then East Pakistan during partition in 1947. They turned violent after the mission refused to accept a memorandum.

Police battled the protestors to prevent them entering the mission building, where some 50 staff, including about a dozen diplomats were working. The Bangladesh spokesman said the building suffered extensive damage. The office of the high commissioner, Air Vice Marshall A.K. Khandakar, was the worst affected, he said. "No attempt was made to give us any memorandum...They just threw some leaflets inside," he added.

Mr Jagdish Abrol said that the Hindu Manch was a non-political body and its only aim was to safeguard the interest of the Hindus. "The Hindus in Bangladesh are being prosecuted and we are protesting against the Bangladesh Government's recent decision to confiscate properties of the Hindus there," he told reporters.

However, the Bangladesh spokesman denied that such an ordinance had been promulgated. He said that during the Indo-Pakistan war of 1965, the property of those who fled to India was declared enemy property and confiscated by the Pakistan Government. This took effect from 1947, when hundreds of thousands of Hindus fled from East Pakistan to India.

East Pakistan became Bangladesh after a liberation war fought with Indian support in 1971.

Information Minister Assails Western Media Treatment

BK280955 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0847 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] In a television interview in New York, [Information and Broadcasting Minister] H.K.L. Bhagat said that India's image, as depicted by the Western media, is not balanced. Bhagat said the Western media have been ignoring a lot of good things happening in India. The nonaligned world in general has the same feeling about the Western media.

Replying to a question, Bhagat said the government media in India, particularly radio and television, are objective. About the Punjab problem, the minister said the government has taken a reasonable and moderate attitude. Addressing the third convention of Asian Indians in Washington on the 26th of May, Bhagat said India is a united and stable country and is marching forward. Referring to the Punjab problem, Bhagat said every possible effort is being made to curb violence in the state. We want to solve the problem with patience and understanding, he added.

The convention called for the frequent and factual flow of visual news from India. The gathering regretted that India is not being properly projected by the American media. It covers visuals from India only when there is unrest in any part.

In a message to the convention, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi said if people have wrong notions about India from books and the media, they should correct them through contacts with people.

'Arafat Appeals to Gandhi on Gulf Situation

BK290925 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr 'Arafat, has urged the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, to resume efforts in her capacity as the chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement to help end the Iran-Iraq war. At a press conference in Kuwait, Mr 'Arafat also called upon the two nations to end the conflict to avoid any superpower intervention in the region.

Hindu Leader Charged in Wake of Bombay Riots

BK291032 Hong Kong AFP in English 1000 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] New Delhi, May 29 (AFP) — Police in Maharastra State today initiated criminal proceedings against militant Hindu leader Bal Thackeray in the wake of Hindu-Moslem riots in the Bombay region which left at least 228 people dead, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported here today.

Meanwhile, police in Bombay said they had arrested 6,388 people in connection with the sectarian clashes which erupted on May 17 and were centered mainly on the major port city and the nearby textile centre of Bhiwandi. An uneasy calm prevailed in Bombay and Bhiwandi, reports from the area said.

The official death toll in the riots — the worst in Maharastra State — meanwhile rose to 228 with the discovery of a body in Thane, a western suburb of Bombay, PTI reported.

The agency quoted police as saying that a total of seven cases had been filed against Mr. Thackeray, who heads the Shiva Sena militant Hindu organisation. So far Mr. Thackeray has not been arrested, PTI said.

The first case was filed today at the Gamdevi police station in central Bombay, PTI said. Stdhe charges include making inflammatory speeches which were said to have sparked the riots. Mr Thackeray had allegedly called the Moslems traitors.

In a show of strength, the Moslems, led by a Congress (I) deputy in the Maharastra State Assembly, A.R. Khan, garlanded a portrait of the Hindu leader with a string of shoes. In India, this is considered an extreme insult. A spokesman for the Maharastra branch of the Congress (I) Party said that Mr. Khan had been asked to show cause why he should not be suspended from the party for leading this action.

Meanwhile, in Punjab, where militant Sikhs are mounting an often violent campaign for further autonomy for their rich farming state, the administration braced to counter a Sikh threat to stop paying taxes from June 3 and to halt the supply of foodgrains to other Indian states, a government spokesman said here.

Curfew Imposed in Gujarat Following Clashes

BK270601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Indefinite curfew has been imposed in the Cambay town in Khera district of Gujarat since yesterday following clashes between two groups of people. No untoward incident took place when the curfew was relaxed yesterday evening.

Incidents of Sectarian Violence Continue in Punjab

Bombing in Patiala Cinema

BK271609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] About a dozen persons, including a woman and a child, were injured in a bomb blast outside a cinema hall in Patiala this afternoon. The police have rounded up over 30 persons for interrogation.

In Amritsar, one Central Reserve Police Force jawan [man] was injured when some miscreants opened fire near the Golden Temple complex today. The police arrested three persons. One revolver was recovered from them. One person was killed when some miscreants fired at him near a religious place in (Sultanpur Lodi) in Kapurthala District.

The caretaker of a religious place in Urmar in Hoshiarpur District was attacked and injured with a sharp-edged weapon by some terrorists last night. Before fleeing, they are reported to have fired some shots. The district administration in Jullundur has decided to lift the night curfew in the city from tomorrow. The day curfew had already been lifted.

Murder Investigations Continue

BK281611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] In Punjab, day curfew in Mansa town of Bhatinda district was lifted today. Night curfew will continue for some more days. In Ferozepore, the curfew has been extended till tomorrow morning, and in Jagraon, it has been extended till Thursday.

Last week's arrests of 10 persons in various places in Jullundur and Amritsar Districts have provided valuable clues to the murder of the Bharatiya Janata Party leader Harbans Lal Khanna; Ramesh Chandra, journalist, and H.S. Manchanda of Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee, Delhi.

Disclosing this to newsmen in Amritsar, the inspector general of police, Mr P.S. Bhinder, said the district police and task forces have done a good job in nabbing persons involved in several crimes. He said a high-level meeting has discussed fresh strategy to tackle the Punjab situation.

In village (Basarki) in Amritsar District, one person was killed by several extremists when he was sleeping. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that an attempt was made to set a post office on fire in village (Khadu Sahib) in the district last night.

Arms Licensing Liberalized

BK261019 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] The Punjab Government has decided to liberalize issuing of the arms license to individuals for self-defense. The governor, Mr B.D. Pande, told newsmen in Patiala today that instructions have been issued to all the district magistrates in the state to carry out quick verification and disposal of such cases. He said a task force in the state has been created to ensure the deployment and use of security forces in a most effective and efficient manner.

In reply to a question, Mr Pande said the mobility and the efficiency of the police force in the state has been much improved in the recent past and the intercommunication systems strengthened by inducting over 1,000 new wireless sets. Mr Pande said the increased number of encounters and arrests of a large number of terrorists proved the utility of the task force.

Extremists Arrested in Ferozepore

BK260942 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] In Punjab, the president of the Ferozepore unit of the Hindu Suraksha Samiti [protection committee] was shot dead by two miscreants last evening near his residence. The assailants, who tried to escape, were chased by the police and arrested. The victim was returning to his house after closing his shop. Two revolvers and some ammunitions have been recovered from the culprits. The district magistrate has imposed curfew till tomorrow morning in the city as a precautionary measure in view of the tension in some parts of the city. In Gurdaspur, one Border Security Force [BSF] personnel was killed when some miscreants lobbed a hand grenade on a BSF truck carrying mail last night near (Hardoshania Chowk). In another incident in Gurdaspur last night, a hand grenade was lobbed on a Central Reserve Police Force [CRPF] truck. The bomb did not explode. The CRPF, however, arrested the culprit who threw the grenade. Our Moga correspondent reports that an attempt was made earlier this morning to set on fire Maheshwari railway station between Moga and Talwandi Bhai on the Ferozepore-Ludhiana line of the northern railway. Some records were destroyed in the fire. The Madhya Pradesh police arrested two extremists from Punjab at Banpur in Khandwa District last night. They are alleged to have committed a number of crimes in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.

Congress-I Secretary Clarifies Stance on Rajiv Gandhi

BK281215 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] The Congress-I general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, has clarified that the reported remarks by the information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, that if the Congress-I is to choose a leader other than Mrs Gandhi, the choice will be on Mr Rajiv Gandhi, are his personal views. Replying to questions by newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr Moopanar said the Congress-I high command has taken exception to this.

Kashmir Party Leader Addresses Delegate Session

BK261700 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] The National Conference party chief, Dr Farooq Abdullah, says his party is not in confrontation with the Center. Addressing the 1-day delegate session of his party in Srinagar today, he said Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that the future of those parts of the state under occupation of Pakistan remains to be decided. This should be done in accordance with the Simla agreement, Dr Abdullah added. He complained of insufficient funds for the development of the state. The delegate session adopted a resolution reaffirming its faith and loyalty to the party and its chief. The general secretary of the National Conference, Sheikh Nazir, later claimed that 3,500 delegates attended the session, including all the members of Legislative Assembly except one. He said 117 delegates have been expelled for antiparty activities.

Former Afghan Diplomat Meets Newsmen in Peshawar

BK261606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] The former Afghan charge d'affaires in Moscow has said the Afghan people have totally rejected the Karmal government and are fully supporting the mujahidin. Mr Abdul Mangal, the Afghan diplomat who had served for over 17 years in Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry, recently defected from his country.

Mr Mangal told newsmen in Peshawar today that the people of Afghanistan do not want any foreign ideology or system that goes against their religion, traditions, and culture. He said the Afghan people are determined to continue their fight until foreign troops are withdrawn, Afghanistan's nonaligned and sovereign Islamic status is restored, and the Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland with honor. The former Afghan diplomat said this is a question of the national aspirations of the Afghan people, who, history proves, have not been subjugated by anyone.

Zia Discusses Efforts To Mediate Iran-Iraq War

GF281700 Karachi DAWN in English 25 May 84 p 2

[Text] Karachi, May 24 — Both the combatants in the Gulf war — Iraq and Iran — have been asked by Pakistan to avoid any steps likely to have an adverse impact on this entire region, President Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq said here on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference at Karachi Airport in the evening, he said Pakistan had made this approach to the two warring states in a threefold capacity, i.e. as a neighbouring state, a member of the Organisation of the Islamic Countries (OIC), and also the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

He told a questioner that developments in the nearly four-year-old war between Iraq and Iran were a cause for anxiety, and Pakistan had expressed its views about the conflict to both these countries.

Voicing the hope that the ramifications of the Gulf war would remain under control, he added that Pakistan was ready to meet any situation arising out of the possible difficulties for commercial shipping in this region and a consequent oil shortage.

Answering another question about the conflict, he said the OIC Secretary-General Mr Habib Chatti had written a number of letters to him recently regarding renewed efforts by the OIC's Ummah Peace Committee to mediate an end to the Gulf war.

While consultations with other member states were in progress on this issue, it had first to be determined whether any further mediation efforts by the OIC's Ummah Peace Committee would have a beneficial effect in the present environment, he added.

President Ziaul Haq summed up his observations on this issue by expressing the hope that both Iraq and Iran would end the conflict, adding that the root of the whole matter lay in this aspect.

Answering another query he stated that Pakistan held Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia in equal regard and affection and was willing to assist them — and any other Muslim state — in any possible way whenever asked to do so.

Asked to comment on the just-concluded five-day official visit to Pakistan by the Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr M.K. Rasgotra, he said important talks had been held between the Indian and Pakistani sides during the former's stay in the federal capital.

President Zia later left for Islamabad.

On departure at Karachi Airport he was seen off, among others, by Sind Governor Lt-Gen Jahan Dad Khan, and senior civil and miltiary officials.

President Discusses Nuclear Program

GF261205 Karachi DAWN in English 23 May 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Karachi, May 22 — President Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq today categorically stated that Pakistan would continue with its nuclear programme without succumbing to any pressure or compromising on principles.

Addressing the business elite of the city at Bagh-i-Jinnah opposite the U.S. consulate, he said, "We have made it clear to our friends and neighbours that our nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes." He said Pakistan had acquired uranium enrichment know-how "which can meet our requirement" for a 900-MW nuclear power plant at Chashma.

He said that while Pakistan was willing to give guarantees and right to inspect the nuclear unit at Chashma to countries which would assist in this project, "We will not accept controls and inspections for rest of our programme."

President Zia said: "We will only allow inspection or international supervision for our nuclear programme if other countries of the area also submit to same rules."

However, he disclosed that Pakistan had acquired "a particular important thing" of nuclear technology which was possessed by only five other countries of the world.

However, he said, the nuclear programme was facing some difficulties in acquiring relevant machinery.

The president explained Pakistan's nuclear programme and policy, referring to the remarks made by Mr Javed Sultan Japanwala about energy shortage in his welcome address at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry benefit dinner for charitable hospital.

Agencies add: The president pointed out that without availability of adequate power supply it would not be possible to develop agriculture and industrial sectors, and the only alternative to achieve this objective was to develop nuclear energy.

He said Pakistan was the first country in this region which had a nuclear power plant with the assistance of the Canadian

Government, and even after withdrawal of this assistance Pakistani scientists had kept this plant in operation.

He said that after the completion of Chashma nuclear power plant the country would be able to meet its power requirements for the next 20 years.

The president said efforts would continue to find new sources of energy to meet requirements. In this regard he referred to the Kalabagh hydel [hydroelectric] power project for which assistance was being sought at the international level. He said work would start on the Kalabagh Dam project by 1990.

He said 200-megawatt power unit one at Bin Qasim had already been commissioned while units two, three and four, each of 200 MW, would also start operation in September 1984, February 1987, and March 1988.

Besides, the 500-kV transmission line laid up to Jamshoro had been commissioned, and Karachi would start getting power from it by October 1985 through a 220-kV power transmission line.

Similarly, new gas reserves were being developed to meet the country's energy needs. He, however, observed that a time would come when all the available resources would reach an optimum level and then "we would have to acquire either solar or nuclear energy."

The president said these efforts clearly proved the government's concern about providing the basic facilities for the development of industrial and agriculture sectors.

About the export processing zone, he said it had specifically been set up for attracting foreign investment and bringing their technology here. Therefore, under present rules, there was no possibility for allowing resident Pakistanis to set up industries in it. The Pakistani investors, he said, should set up their industries outside the zone, wherever they liked. However, he said the chamber's proposal in this regard would be looked into.

About the proposal of setting up an industrial estate within the vicinity of Pakistan steel for downstream industries, the president said the Ministry of Production would look into this proposal.

Iranian Envoy Lauds Country's Neutrality in Gulf War

GF281207 Karachi DAWN in English 25 May 84 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, May 24 — Mr. M.M. Musavi, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said here today that his country was appreciative of Pakistan's "definite and positive position" on the Gulf issue, and its neutrality in the Iran-Iraq conflict. The Iranian envoy was addressing a largely attended press conference held at his residence.

Mr Musavi said that Pakistan had observed the Geneva protocol. A number of visitors from the United States, including Vice President George Bush, had, in the recent past, made "derogatory" references to Iran and developments in the Gulf. The envoy said Iran had taken note of their provocative statements and threats to Iran, emanating from the Gulf incidents. Iran had a right to refute allegations against the Iranian revolution and its leadership.

Defense Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia Visit

BK261054 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] A high-powered Saudi defense delegation will visit Pakistan after the holy month of Ramadan to explore areas of cooperation and joint ventures between the two countries. This was stated by the defense minister, Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur, while talking to newsmen on return to Islamabad from a week-long goodwill visit to Saudi Arabia.

Soviet Ambassador Discusses Economic Cooperation

BK261056 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Pakistan, Mr Smirnov, speaking on the economic collaboration between Pakistan and the Soviet Union, has said some projects are under consideration. Talking to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, he said during the Pakistan finance minister's visit to Moscow an agreement was reached on a number of projects which can be set up with the technical and economic assistance of the Soviet Union.

MRD Leaders Under House Arrest, Other Restrictions

BK280330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] In Pakistan, the convener of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy [MRD], Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, has been banned from entering the Northwest Frontier Province. The veteran Baluchi leader, Mr Ghaus Baksh Beizenjo, is reported to be put under house arrest in his village in Baluchistan.

According to agency reports, restrictions have been imposed on several other leaders on the eve of the MRD meeting scheduled to be held in Peshawar today. The MRD at its Lahore meeting early this month had decided to resist partyless elections in the country.

Briefs

EC Afghan Refugee Aid — The European Commission will provide over $550,000 for the implementation of a scheme to improve health and sanitation facilities for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. International aid agencies are jointly providing financial assistance for this project, which will benefit some 250,000 Afghan refugees. [Text][Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 23 May 84 BK]

SRI LANKA

Premadasa Says Country's Sovereignty Challenged

BK251131 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Premadasa told the Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi, today not to play hide-and-seek if she had desire to invade and conquer Sri Lanka. Winding up the debate on the continuation of the state of emergency by a further month in Parliament early this morning, the prime minister emphasized the fact that the people of Sri Lanka would never live under foreign power.

Parliament approved the continuation of the state of emergency by a two-thirds majority early this morning; 127 members voted for it. Those who voted against it included the members of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, and the Communist Party of Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister Premadasa also told the House that the Government of Sri Lanka had made a request to the Indian Government to hand over the terrorists who are campaigning in India against Sri Lanka, but he said the Indian Government had not expressed its willingness to do so. Mr Premadasa said that India should hand over these terrorists to Sri Lanka if they do not have any intention of invading the country. The prime minister also told the House that he fully supported the allegation of the opposition leader who said that the recent statement by Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao to reduce the strength of the Armed Forces in the north was tantamount to interfering in the internal affairs of the island. Mr Premadasa said that Mr Rao did not have any right to dictate terms to us. It was the responsibility of a friendly country like India to hand over the kidnappers of the American couple. He also expressed the government's readiness to find political solutions to the country's other problems, including education, land, and employment. The prime minister said that mere solutions to these problems would not be a remedial measure to the challenge faced by the country's sovereignty.

Athulathmudali Discusses Antiterrorist Strategy

BK291202 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] The minister of national security and acting minister of defense, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that we should work in a manner in which a confrontation would not arise between the central Government of India and Sri Lanka. Addressing the 87th (Maha Polaya) at (Katugampola) on Sunday, the minister explained that some were trying to provoke the central Government of India against Sri Lanka. We should be wise enough to distinguish our real opponent; what the terrorists in the north wanted was to somehow let the island be invaded by Indian troops.

Minister Athulathmudali pointed out that the people of this country have the knowledge of this plan. He further explained that the responsibility vested in him was to curb terrorism and to safeguard the sovereignty and unity of the country. There are several state governments in India against the Tamil Nadu Government, which has become a major center assisting Sri Lankan terrorism. What we should do is not to take measures to unite them but attempt to maintain opposition between them. There are six terrorist groups. We cannot think that they will ever unite. Our strategy should be as far as possible to see that they maintain their differences. This was how Sinhala [words indistinct] in their own nation. Therefore, Mr Athulathmudali said, we can overcome terrorism by adopting this strategy.

The minister said that we should not make irresponsible statements, but act properly.

Mr Athulathmudali explained that he did not threaten the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, M.G. Ramachandran, when he expressed opposition over the establishment of the surveillance zone in Sri Lanka. But he added that he took suitable measures to implement this zone.

He warned certain mediamen against providing information to terrorists.

Israeli Help in Antiterrorist Training Planned

BK251156 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 25 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's prime minister told Parliament today that a top Indian official's statement urging Colombo to reduce its anti-separatist forces was "interference" in the country's internal affairs.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed told Parliament that a limited Israeli presence would be permitted in Colombo to help train security forces in fighting against Tamils seeking to establish an independent state in the north and east. Sri Lanka suspended diplomatic relations with Israel nearly 14 years ago, saying Israel should return of [as received] occupied Arab territories and recognize the Palestinians. The present government of President Junius Jayewardene has maintained that policy and accorded the Palestine Liberation Organization full diplomatic status.

The government's move to grant a limited Israeli presence through an "interests section" with the United States playing the part of a "protecting power" has been strongly criticised by the opposition here.

Foreign Ministry on UN Security Council Meeting

LD251747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1636 GMT 25 May 84

[Statement issued on 25 May by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with the UN Security Council session concerning the Persian Gulf]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the eve of the Security Council session, called at the request of a number of Persian Gulf countries to review free shipping in the region, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers it necessary to note the following points in order toenlighten world public opinion:

1. The new situation in the Persian Gulf stems from Iraq's adventures and trouble-making. As the one who started and continues to attack oil tankers and commercial vessels in the Persian Gulf, Iraq is the principal guilty party, and any stance taken without taking into consideration Iraq's aim to disrupt free shipping and to internationalize the war would not only be unacceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran and other liberal-thinking nations of the world, but would be further proof that the Security Council, as a tool of the superpowers, is not eligible to review such matters.

2. To approve any resolution that does not condemn or call for punishing Iraq for attacking the oil tankers, an overt contravention of international laws, would in fact aid the Ba'thist regime of Iraq in continuing such trouble-making and prepare the ground for the superpowers' intervention, and ultimately for an act of aggression against the rights of all countries in the region. The insistence by some southern Persian Gulf countries upon distorting the issue and their failure to point to Iraq as the cause of this crisis constitutes an unsuccessful attempt by those countries to cover up their own role in creating and exacerbating the present critical situation in the Persian Gulf.

3. The political, economic, and military aid given by some countries to the Iraqi regime, especially by those powers providing the special weapons that have enabled Iraq to attack the oil tankers, are among the causes of the lack of security and the exacerbation of the unrest in the region. These countries are directly responsible in this respect. Such actions, which have been taken in contravention of the previous decisions of the Security Council, should be strongly condemned.

Once again the Islamic Republic of Iran warns that any plan or step not taking the above points into consideration will be rejected and would show that the Security Council is continuing its incorrect and unfounded stance regarding the Iran-Iraq war. Thus, any new decisions would further disgrace the Council in the eyes of the nations of the world.

[signed] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iraqi Attacks Continue

LD251218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] According to an AP report the Iraqi Zionist regime today announced that that country's aircraft had attacked and damaged several ships in the Persian Gulf waters. A military spokesman in Baghdad said: The ships were attacked in the early hours of this morning while they were moving in a column.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council, without raising the Iraqi regime's attacks on ships in the Persian Gulf, has started its debate around the accusations made by six GCC Arab member countries against Iran in connection with hitting ships in the Persian Gulf. The UN Security Council's discussions are being carried out at a time when Saddam in a speech yesterday confessed his regime's intention to internationalize the war imposed on Iran, referring to the fact that Iraq will continue its attacks against ships in the Persian Gulf indiscriminately.

Envoy to UN Holds Press Conference on Gulf Crisis

GF260800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, citing an ASSOCIATED PRESS report from the United Nations, Mr Raja'i-Khorasani, Iran's representative in the UN, said that if Iraq refrains from attacks on oil tankers, security will be possible in the Persian Gulf.

Mr Raja'i-Khorasani who, after a press conference which was held outside the UN building for the purpose of explaining Iran's viewpoint, elaborated on Iran's stance on the tension in the Persian Gulf.

Mr Raja'i-Khorasani, who had boycotted the UN Security Council emergency session for discussion of the Persian Gulf crisis, an act which was clarified in the press conference and a circular distributed to the representatives, said: Security is for all or none. He accused the UN Security Council of taking sides and of maintaining an irresponsible silence with regard to Iraq's measures for the escalation of the war, saying: Until now, 71 vessels have been targets of missiles, cannon shells, and bombs from Iraq during the course of the imposed war.

Mr Raja'i-Khorasani asked the correspondents: Why did this sudden enthusiasm arise in the UN, when there was such a deep silence regarding Iraq's attacks on foreign vessels? He added: If oil-rich Arab countries continue to give financial and material aid to Iraq, they cannot remain safe. He continued: This is a fact, not a threat. He said: The supporters of Iraq in the Persian Gulf are to a certain extent responsible for what is happening. They want to say that the Persian Gulf should remain peaceful only for those who sell oil and give the money for that to Saddam Husayn.

In answer to a question regarding Iran's threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, Mr Raja'i-Khorasani said that the Strait of Hormuz will remain open unless Khark Island becomes completely useless. At present, we want to export our oil from the Strait of

Hormuz, and we shall be happy if others do the same. He told the correspondents: Resorting to votes in the Security Council is nothing but an attempt to rally aid and more support for the real agent of the escalation of the war and to divert international opinion from the basic issue, that is, the (?disturbance) of peace and international security in the Persian Gulf by Iraq.

Loading Activities at Khark Island Said Trouble-Free
LD271757 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Ahvaz, May 27, IRNA — The general condition of Khark Island is very satisfactory and there have been no delays in loading activities at the island, a knowledgable source told IRNA here today. Iraq claimed it attacked and destroyed several vessels in the Khor-e Musa area at the tip of the Persian Gulf.

"With its good defensive capability, there are no threats opposing oil tankers loading at this island, and every day we witness loading by tankers here," he said.

Japanese Decision To Keep Ships Out of N. Gulf Noted
LD261103 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Tokyo, May 26, IRNA — Japan today decided to stop dispatching its ships to the ports of Kuwait and northern Saudi Arabia following attacks on oil tankers in the area. The decision was made after a proposal by Japan's shipping union and following their joint session with owners of the ships. Japan's shipping union Friday called for the halt in dispatching of Japanese ships to the Persian Gulf.

According to the agreement, dispatch of ships for the loading of crude oil or chemical substances to the ports above 27 degrees and 30 minutes in the Persian Gulf would take place after a consultation between the captain of the ship, labour management in Japan, and the latest information gathered by the regional representative.

The mentioned union by late last year decided to refrain from dispatching ships to the Khark Island oil terminals due to the Iraqi air attacks.

Following the Saturday decision, it is expected that Japan's import of crude oil from the Persian Gulf region to drop sharply.

Kuwaiti Politician's Call To Attack Iran Noted
GF281600 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] A Kuwaiti politician has called on the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf to attack Iran. IRNA reported that the above-mentioned politician, who is distinguished by his strong political inclination toward the West, has told the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'* that this attack will receive the support of the United States, the Soviet Union, and Europe.

The Kuwaiti politician said: We know very well that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not negotiate with Iraq on the reconciliation which concerns us. In conclusion, he said that Ayatollah Khomeyni intends to topple Reagan just as he toppled Carter. It should be noted that Reagan is afraid to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran because it will cost him a lot.

The Kuwaiti politician's call on the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf to attack the Islamic Republic of Iran comes at the time when a group of Muslim Kuwaiti officers warned that they will not allow the use of military bases in Kuwait to attack the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Officers Oppose U.S. Bases
GF271430 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Kuwaiti Muslim Officers will not allow U.S. soldiers to use Kuwaiti bases in order to attack the Islamic Republic of Iran. This was stated by a ground forces colonel in the Kuwaiti Army. Announcing this stand, he said that he represents a group of Kuwaiti Muslim officers who are following the developments in the region after the escalation of the crisis in the Persian Gulf, and after the new dimensions and the increasing concern in the wake of the joint U.S.-Iraqi plot.

He said that they strongly oppose Kuwait's involvement in any attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Stressing that the Muslim officers will not allow any force to jeopardize Kuwait's interests, he said that the presence of U.S. forces in Kuwait will start such a fire that no one will be able to avert its evils.

Answering a question on the emergence of opposition tides within the Kuwaiti Army on this matter, the officer, whose name we withhold for security reasons, said: No opposition has emerged yet, but Kuwaiti officials are aware of the Muslim officers' anxiety and call for a powerful and independent Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia 'Involved' in Attacks on Kuwaiti Ships
GF271538 Tehran KEYHAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 May 84 p 1

[Text] *KEYHAN AL-'ARABI* has learned that Gulf parties headed by Saudi Arabia are involved in the attack on two Kuwaiti ships during the last 2 days. This was not done without coordinating with the Iraqi regime in order to show that the sensitive Gulf region is disturbed and insecure and to pave the way for justifying the illegal U.S. presence. It is also being done to pressure the Islamic Republic on its oil exportation in order to force it to make more concessions on the future of the imposed war.

Montazeri Warns U.S. on Dangers of Intervention
LD261427 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] A large group of members of the Corps and basij [mobilization] forces from Esfahan and Bakhtaran Provinces, together with Red Crescent officials from all over the country, a group of training officials, brothers from the crusade recruitment office,

political-ideological training officials of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, a group of personnel from Qom's Manzariyeh training center, officers from Tehran's officers academy, a number of families of martyrs from various cities, and sister seminarists from Esfahan's Towhid cultural institute met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday.

During the meeting, also attended by the health minister, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ghayuri [name, title as heard], the imam's representative in the Red Crescent Society and supervisor of that institution, and a number of clerical and political personalities, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in a lengthy speech dwelled on the issue of defense and jihad in Islam and the lofty aims thereof, saying: Just as in the law of nature, in creation, attention has been paid to defense, in Islamic legislation and law-making special heed has been paid to the problem of defending the edifice of Islam. Referring to verses from the Holy Koran and verbal traditions of the immaculate imams and the fact that the goal behind the Islamic jihad is the very salvation of the deprived and meek from the claws of the satans coupled with the expansion and extension of Islam, he continued by emphasizing:

The Islamic Republic has never and shall never be for war and aggression. This war was imposed on us by the United States through the subservient Iraqi regime, and the aim behind it is to destroy the Islamic revolution and prevent its existence. However, when the United States faced the resistance and self-sacrifice by Iran's heroic and martyr-nurturing nation, East and West united; propping up the Iraqi regime with Soviet missiles, French Mirage aircraft, and material assistance rendered by U.S. agents in the region, they prevailed on Saddam to embark on any crime, to destroy our flourishing border cities and villages and thereby render homeless a number of our brothers and sisters.

However, throughout all these phases our resisting and selfless nation was patient, and despite all its difficulties it defended its sacred revolution, which it had achieved thanks to the pure blood of its dear martyrs, so that now the United States does not see (?any other) path except, in effect, to enter into a war against Islam in the region and thereby save Saddam from being toppled, or so it imagines. This is at a time when U.S. agents in the region should know that Iran's intrepid, Muslim nation — which stood up to the dead shah's armed-to-the-teeth regime until it finally destroyed it, and then after that victory stood up to all the insane and fire-kindling deeds of Saddam, who has been far more powerful than other U.S. agents in the region — these U.S. agents should know that such a nation will stand up with decisiveness an perseverence against any other plot hatched by the United States and will never fear or be terrified by these suspect comings and goings, colonialist conferences, and conspiratorial meetings which are taking place today or by, for instance, the rumors that one hears that the United States will intervene directly.

The United States should know that if it wishes to intervene in this country it would have to step over the bodies of 40 million resisting Muslims. The United States has already suffered a blow once from the combatant nation of Vietnam; and in the course of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the occupation of the den of spies by our selfless, Muslim students, its horn was broken and it lost its prestige in the world. I do not think that it will once again repeat that bitter experience. But if it were to embark on an insane act and throw itself into this dangerous vortex, our nation will administer such a lesson to it that it will never forget.

In the same connection he called on Persian Gulf governments to learn a lesson from the story of the dead shah and the present situation of the departing Saddam and not to spend so much of their money, at U.S. behest, on a corrupt, anti-Islamic regime which is definitely on its way out and which will not last all that long, and instead of supporting Saddam in attacking Islam and the Islamic revolution they should spend these monies to further the course of their own nations and should know that were Saddam to obtain power he would show any mercy to none of them and would settle accounts with all of them.

He graciously emphasized: The Persian Gulf governments should not be deceived by the suggestions and propaganda spread by Islam's enemies, and let them rest assured that the Islamic Republic of Iran neither needs nor covets a single span of their soil or that of Iraq, for example.

With regard to the rumor of an imposed peace he graciously emphasized: Our conditions to the aggressive Saddam regime are the selfsame which the country's responsible authorities have so far stated. But if the evil Iraqi Ba'thist regime were to be lifted from the head of the Iraqi nation and the destinies of the Islamic country of Iraq were to fall into the hands of its nation whereby all the strata and classes of that nation, whether clerical or nonclerical, Shi'ites, Sunnis, or Kurds, were all to join their voices in unison for the administration of the country, then in those circumstances not only would we not want any reparations but we would instead also render assistance to Iraq's war-torn country and nation.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then referred to the need for preserving unity among all strata and classes and said: Today, when all the powers of East and West have united in order to crush and distort the face of the Islamic Revolution, we should pay greater heed to our duties, we should appreciate the value of this revolution and this freedom from slavery under the superpowers which we have wrested away at a high cost; and then we should safeguard our unity, as in the past, by not doing something whereby differences in taste and opinions would emerge here and there and, God forbid, gradually culminate in disputes and rifts, or by doing something whereby we would create a rift between oursleves and the people.

He added: Keeping the people in the arena is one of the biggest tasks of the country's responsible officials today. Serving this oppressed, selfless nation should top the list of our tasks. Every organ and institution should endeavor its utmost in order to serve this dear nation which is constantly displaying self-sacrifice and selflessnewss on the fronts and behind the fronts and should not do something, God forbid, as to bring about conditions for the people's dissatisfaction and despair at the revolution. If our nation remains in the arena with hope and energy in the future, as in the past, as has been graciously commanded by the leader of the revolution, the United States and other superpowers will not be able to do anything.

He then graciously referred to help rendered by the Red Crescent on the fronts and to the martyrs thereof, and called on the people to strengthen that popular institution which is being administered under the supervision of the Imam's representative and its dedicated officials, adding: The Red Crescent, apart from the fronts and inside the country, is today also helping Lebanon, and Afghanistan's fighters and refugees to a certain extent. Therefore, it is appropriate that it should receives the people's assistance.

The same report indicates that during yesterday's meeting with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, the Red Crescent's responsible officials presented him with the people's donations for the fronts of the imposed war in the form of 2.5 kilograms of gold and about (?30) kilograms of silver.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Majlis Sessions, War With Iraq

LD251107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave a press, radio, and television conference given for the benefit of domestic and foreign newsmen yesterday afternoon. Describing the functions of the first term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, he said: One of the tasks we had during that term was the direct broadcasting of Majlis sessions on the radio, when all the speeches by Majlis deputies were broadcast. If an institution like the Majlis had the least doubt about itself it would not dare do such a thing. This is extremely important from the standpoint of winning the confidence of the people in the Majlis and in their deputies and their intellectual development. All in all, the situation in this Majlis was such that throughout these 4 years it was able to acquaint a vast section of the country's populace with a great many legislation problems and with their lawful rights.

Referring to the fact that another notable feature of the first term of the Majlis was its hard work, he said: As far as I know, such a hard-working consultative assembly does not exist anywhere else in the world. During these 4 years we held about 650 official sessions which usually lasted about 4 hours and sometimes even longer.

Enumerating the important tasks of the Majlis, among which was declaring the incompetence of deposed president of the republic, Bani-Sadr, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said: That was a courageous step by the Majlis, and it saved the country from a deadly situation. Another was ending the problem of the U.S. hostages, which the Majlis solved so well.

Answering questions put to him by newsmen about the quality of the second Majlis, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: All in all I think the second Majlis could not be more correct that the first Majlis. But by drawing on the experience of the first Majlis it will become even more powerful.

Replying to a question by one of the newsmen who asked: With the inception of the second Majlis, will the present government be changed, the speaker the Islamic Consultative Assembly said:No! Such a possibility does not exist in our Constitution. Of course, the second Majlis has the right of censure, and if it so wishes it could dismiss the government.

Replying to a question by a foreign reporter to the effect that it seems the Islamic Republic of Iran has given up its threat to clsoe the Hormuz Strait, he said: It would not be correct to say given up. We are still firmly backing what we said in the beginning. We never said we would simply close the Strait of Hormuz, nor do we wish to have it closed, because if the Strait were to be closed it would harm us too, and we would incur losses. Therefore, we have always emphasized that we would close the Strait of Hormuz if the Persian Gulf became unusable for us. And if the Persian Gulf becomes unusable for us we will make the Persian Gulf unusable for others. This has been our policy, and if the day ever comes, then our threat will still be good and we will act in accordance with it. Nevertheless, we hope that the world will be sufficiently wise to prevent such a day, and we think it highly unlikely that such a day will come. We are serious in this respect.

Continuing the conference with regard to removing economic privations, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: Much work has been done and remains to be done in this connection. One of the fundamental tasks that should be carried out in the future, in our opinion, is that the problem of agriculture should be solved. Those who work on the land and who make up the majority in our society should have a good life. The countryfolk, because they are a deprived group, will have greater attention paid to them. This is precisely our policy. Bills have been approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly that provide for constructing highways, schools, hospitals, industrial complexes, and dams in the country's deprived areas. I should add that whatever is important has been given to the deprived areas.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The system of distribution that exists at the present time is in a bad situation, and inflation is hurting the lower and middle classes. It is important in this respect that people do not purchase goods at high prices.

On the subject of relations between the government and the Majlis during the past 4 years, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: The majority of Majlis members agree with the government in its entirety, but this does not mean that the majority would agree with every minister put forward by the government. There is also the possibility that the government may propose ministers who would not be accepted by the Majlis.

In reply to a question about to what extent the government has been successful in implementing plans and bills approved by the Majlis, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: I believe the government has been relatively successful but not entirely successful, and I do not attribute this lack of success to weakness or incompetence of the government.

The Majlis sometimes approves certain things which are also measures of ambition, because some of the deputies have not had much experience in executive work, and perhaps we have approved certain government bills which they were unable to implement in the time stipulated — this is not evidence of their weakness. Of course, our ministers and administrative cadres,

too, do not yet have fully experienced executive elements. There is a certain lack of experience among our executives, but their goodwill and hard work, carrying out additional work during their office hours and working in a revolutionary manner, make up for that.

On the other hand, the war is an extremely important issue. While at war we have been able to maintain the normal course of life in the country without levying war taxes or demanding extraordinary work from our departments. The people voluntarily come and participate in the war: This is an immense task.

The government now is spending a large proportion of its energies on the fronts. Managing the affairs of 2 million war refugees weighs heavily on the shoulders of the government, and five of our provinces have been almost semiparalyzed by the war. Bear in mind all these things: A government with limited experience, coupled with new needs of the revolution and budgetary pressures, is carrying out these tasks.

Moreover, there are problems arising from the exodus of 1.5 million Afghan refugees and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees. It is only fair to consider the fact that the executive has maintained the country in a normal condition thus far as one of its important tasks. These tasks are not implemented by the judiciary, by the Majlis or by the Council of Guardians, but rather they are the tasks of the government. We should not say that the government is weak, but rather one should say that it has difficulties. And I concede that work experience is not as it should be.

In connection with the confrontation between the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the air forces of other Arab countries, apart from Iraq, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council said: After 4 years of war the Iranian Air Force is stronger than it was in the beginning from the standpoint of efficiency. We could carry out important tasks with our Air Force deep inside neighboring countries; except for the fact that we are careful in employing our Air Force, partly because of our reliance on such countries as the United States with regard to spare parts for the Air Force. The state of our Air Force, praise be to God, is good, and we have no worries in this respect.

Replying to the question: Do you think a debate and study by the Majlis on ending the war is probable? Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Yes. Of course, this does not at all mean that the Majlis will make the first decision. Our Constitution says: If it becomes necessary to declare the cessation of war, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces will be the first to declare the ending of the war. The Majlis will then approve the peace. We hope to end the war soon and we hope the second Majlis will be able to approve the peace, or that the victory will be such that there will be no need to convene the Majlis and the Iraqi nation will be automatically liberated.

Continuing this press conference in connection with the priorities of the second Majlis, he said: This state of affairs is related to the situation of the Majlis, the deputies, and the government. [sentence as heard]

In conclusion, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the question of publicity abroad and said: Following the guidelines by the imam of the Islamic nation, the Majlis carried out a great many activities in this respect. Many deputies traveled abroad and the overall budget of propaganda work was easily approved. Of course, one should say that our overall policy lays stress on publicity and we attach importance to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly with regard to programs for overseas.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD251258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpt] Today, when the Armed Forces, the basiji, and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps throughout our Islamic homeland are marching toward the Friday prayers venues in order to demonstrate their combat readiness toward global arrogance, our hezbollahi Islamic nation, with their ever increasing presence in the Friday prayers ceremonies, showed their profound unity in confronting the aggressor enemies. The awesome Friday prayers ceremony was held in Tehran under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani.

At the beginning of his second sermon, Tehran's acting Friday imam said: The acts of devilry by the global arrogance and the crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi 'Aflaqite regime in the Persian Gulf have entered new phases. The Iraqi 'Aflaqite regime wishes to make the Persian Gulf insecure and thereby to bring pressure to bear on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which ever since the inception of the imposed war right up to the present has pursued a defensive policy in all phases. He added:

[Begin recording] The Islamic Republic has called from the very first day for peace and security, not only in the region but also throughout the world. From the very first day the Islamic Republic has opposed war, violence, and murder. It is this filthy Iraqi 'Aflaqite regime which has imposed the war on us for the past 44 months. We long for peace, and, just as we said in the very beginning, we consider security and peace to be fundamental principles. But if you attack us and perpetrate crimes against us we will retaliate in the Persian Gulf as well. It is not the responsible officials of the Islamic Republic but the 40 million people who make up the Iranian nation who say with the utmost courage and decisiveness: If the Persian Gulf is to be secure and if shipping is to remain free then it should remain secure for all! [loud cheers]

But we declare to the world, to global arrogance, to certain reactionary leaders in the region, whose AWACS guide Iraq's air attacks on the Persian Gulf, that with the vast participation of our dear young people in the fronts, with our profound and extensive readiness to face all the acts of devilry and attacks by the enemy, we say: If these waters are not secure for us they will not be secure for anyone! [end recording]

Tehran's acting Friday imam added: The day they attacked the Islamic Republic of Iran the United States learned from Islam's combatants and the decisiveness of our illustrious imam that it could not crush our Islamic Revolution. But now it has again put

its filthy hands into the Persian Gulf and is carrying out the same acts of aggression. But they should know that if there is to be bread and butter then it should be for the entire world; but if there is no bread and butter for the Iranian people then there will be none for any other country. This is the just demand of the Islamic Republic of Iran!

Continuing his second sermon, and referring to U.S. plots in the Persian Gulf, he said: Because of the lessons which the United States learned from Iran's Islamic Revolution and from the struggles of the Vietnamese people, one would not expect the United States to take any measures in the Persian Gulf. Surely the United States would not throw itself into this morass?

Addressing the reactionary leaders of the region who are supporting Saddam, Tehran's acting Friday imam said: Your nations are all Muslim. Can you not see that your nations have become and are ever more attached to the Islamic Republic of Iran? So give up supporting the Saddam regime, because that regime will be relegated to the ash heap of history. The Islamic Republic of Iran desires friendship and sincerity with all Islamic countries, particularly for neighbors. Our Muslim brothers in the Islamic countries should remain vigilant lest they are deceived by U.S. plots and rumors. They should deliver a firm rebuff to global arrogance and let them know that we should all congregate under the clarion call of Islam and — God willing — we shall be mobilized against the usurping Israel!

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani, addressing the basij forces attending today's Friday prayers ceremony in Tehran, said: You, mobilization brothers, have played a big role in the Islamic Republic and with your blood you have written the history of the Islamic Revolution. We hope that together with other combatants of Islam you will deal the final blows to Iraq's criminal regime.

Islamic Revolution Assembly Scores Iraqi 'Adventures'

GF261926 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has issued a statement on the Iraqi regime's recent adventures in the Persian Gulf. Noting the continuous failure of the president of the Ba'thist Zionist regime in Iraq in its policy of using surface-to-surface missiles during the air attacks and the use of chemical weapons against the Muslim Iranian people to force Muslim Iran to retreat from its serious stand with regard to the imposed war, SAIRI affirmed the necessity of continuing the fight until the fall of Saddam's regime.

In its statement, SAIRI said that the international arrogance headed by the United States has not learned the lesson of its continuous failures — the last of which was the exposed retreat of the U.S. interventionist forces from the Lebanese soil — but it is planning anew to control the Islamic regions. The statement accounced that various sectors of the Iraqi Muslim people are ready to stand by the side of the Islam fighters under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to confront any adventure in the Persian Gulf.

First Majlis Closes; Oil Sale to Syria Approved

LD262139 Tehran IRNA in English 1902 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) held last sessions of its first term today and this evening. A special ceremony will be held at the Majlis Sunday on the termination of its first term. The second term of the Majlis will open Monday.

Today the Majlis approved a revision of the bill on providing Syria with five million tons of crude oil at a discount price and an additional one million tons free of charge. It partly approved a bill for the articles of association of the agricultural insurance fund.

The outlines of a bill for the administration of the Housing and Urban Development Ministry also received the approval of the Majlis deputies. The Ministry has been without a minister since last summer, and three nominees for the post were rejected by the Majlis.

Speaker Reads Khomeyni Message

LD271239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] The Majlis today held the final meeting of its first term. During the meeting, the text of a handwritten message by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the form of a commemorative plate awarded to the deputies of the first term of the Majlis as well as the families of martyred Majlis deputies was read.

Following is the text of Imam Khomeyni's message read by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsajnani at today's final session of the Majlis:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Islamic Consultative Assembly, heading all other institutions in the Islamic Republic, enjoys certain peculiarities, the most important of which is its Islamic-nationalistic nature. It is Islamic, for all its efforts are directed at ratifying laws which are not incompatible with holy Islamic precepts, particularly in light of support by the Council of Guardians. It is nationalistic, for it has emerged from within the nation with the hands of the East, the West, and their dependents being cut off from deciding its fate. Today, the Majlis is the nation's real home and, contrary to the Satanic period, particularly the oppressive Pahlavi regime, it is founded on the votes cast by the masses committed to Islam, the genuine, hardworking and deprived nation. Now the filthy hands of the former government authorities, the influentials and the aristocrats as well as Easternized and Westernized people, are cut off from it.

Today, the government which enjoys the confidence of the Majlis is rightly the government of the oppressed, who inherit the earth. May God almighty prolong the great blessing of Islam as well as independence and freedom for the oppressed Iranian nation. May he save other oppressed nations from the yoke of the oppressors.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

Opening Ceremonies Held for Second Term of Majlis

LD282019 Tehran IRNA in English 1908 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA — The second term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) started today with a message from the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni.

The ceremony started with the appointment of Seyyed Amani as the age-president [title as received] and Amirzadeh Irani as the vice age-president of the Majlis, while two of the youngest deputies, Alireza Nazari and Amir Mir appointed as the secretaries.

The Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri then spoke on the characteristics of the first term of the Majlis as well as on the elections for the second term.

The inaugural session of the second term of the Majlis was also attended by a number of ulema and high-ranking officials including the president and prime minister and Army commanders.

The interior minister said the participation of the people in the elections for the second term of the Majlis showed an increase of 40 percent over the first term. Nateq-Nuri added that 251 representatives have been elected, and so far the result of 147 constituencies with over 200 representatives has been approved by the Council of Guardians, noting that it was above the average required for the opening of the Majlis. The interior minister appreciated endeavors of organisations and institutes involved in the elections as well as disciplinary forces, the press, and radio and T.V.

After Nateq-Nuri's speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni read Imam Khomeyni's message on the occasion of the inauguration of the second term of the Majlis.

After Imam Khomeyni's message, President 'Ali Khamene'i in a speech praised the efforts and stands of the first term of the Majlis and hoped that the experience gained in previous years would be used in the second term.

He said the chairmanship of the Majlis by Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the first term was "powerful, distinguished, sincere, revolutionary, and multidimensional" and enabled the Majlis to ease through tensions and crises.

Following the president's speech, representatives whose election had been confirmed by the Council of Guardians took oath and then departed for Behesht-e Zahara cemetery to pay their respects to the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and Iraqi-imposed war.

Son Reads Khomeyni Message

LD281742 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 28 May broadcasts a 44-minute message from Imam Khomeyni, read by his son Ahmad Khomeyni, at the inaugural session of the second term of the Majlis.

The message cites the importance and achievements of the previous term, saying: "The Islamic Republic, enjoying fully the support of the ever alert nation, has to a great extent tackled the revolution's problems. Its blessed foundations have been consolidated, while it has drawn itself closer to the hearts of the world faithful and oppressed peoples. Moreover, the giant Islamic wave has shaken the deprived and oppressed nations of the world and, contrary to the predictions and hopes of the superpowers as well as those of their treacherous lackeys, it is advancing along its glorious path."

The message goes on to praise the achievements of the Islamic Republic and God's blessing for the country, while praising the contributions made by the deputies of the first term of the Majlis despite the numerous difficulties facing them. Alluding to the sacrifices made by the nation, Khomeyni's message urges the present Majlis deputies to adhere to their great responsibilities. Khomeyni then says in his message that he would like to raise some points with the deputies: That they must always remember God, as he controls everything; that none of the achievements or victories in the war would have been possible without God. Appealing to God, the message adds that if it were not for God's blessing, "at a time when the so-called Islamic governments, by joining the usurping Israel and its more usurping master America have mobilized themselves to overthrow the Islamic Republic, Iran would have been crushed when it was to take its initial breath."

Citing its second point, the message reiterates the principal policy of the Islamic Republic — that of Neither East nor West, adding that it has never feared the mythical powers, and that is the secret of its successes. The message, further praising the Majlis, says that ours is the only genuine parliament in the world.

The third point raised in the message deals with the achievements and at the same time difficulties of the previous Majlis, calling on the new Majlis to solve the numerous problems facing the country. It states within this context: "The present Majlis must settle the highly important economic problems, curb inflation, solve the issue of land and housing, as well as more care for matters related to the deprived people and the low-income groups." The message alludes to low-income government employees as an example of this group. It repeatedly stresses the need to adhere to Islamic precepts as a priority.

The fourth point of the message urges the Majlis to control and survey on the performance of the government and cabinet ministers and, if necessary, go as far as resorting to the censure motion. Khomeyni warns the deputies and everyone else concerned against temptation, egotistical mentality and attitude, and Satan, who always tempts human beings. He also warns the deputies against slandering others, urging them to substantiate their charges and accusations if they believe any deputy is misbehaving.

Referring to the subsequent point, the present situation and difficulties of the country, the message emphasizes the nation's unity toward the widespread global opposition as well as the war with Iraq, calling on the deputies and others to carry out their responsibilities. Within this context the message says: "Under the present circumstances the tasks and duties of everyone —

particularly the esteemed clergymen, the esteemed Majlis, the government and the commanders of the Armed Forces — are highly demanding and heavy. These people are the guardians of unity and cohesion. Through their fair attitudes they can save Islam and the country from these tragic conspiracies. The unity and cohesion of the deputies and responsible officials as well as the support of each other take top priority.

"Considering the stand taken by the world toward Iran, differences and discord within any stratum of the country or differences between one stratum and another — something which would inevitably spread to cover the nation — is today a lethal poison which would result in a threat of annihilation to itself, and then the country and the nation and above all the great Islam."

He then warns the ulema and Friday imams against uttering unwarranted statements during their speeches and sermons, adding: "Even one sentence, interview, or sermon by them would cause the Islamic Republic to be questioned at the international level; it would bring about tragedies in the country and serve as a source of differences and discord. It would lead to the weakening of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Army as well as other branches of the Armed Forces, or would result in differences between the Corps, the Army, and the Armed Forces. As a result, God forbid, it could culminate in the frustration of all the efforts by the gentlemen over the past several years. It could also cause the weakening and discouragement of the government which is serving all. If the government is defeated, the foundations of the Islamic Republic would tremble."

The message then recalls the difficulties facing the country, including the war, its expenditures, the presence of Afghan refugees as well as Iraqi nationals, asking the deputies to help the government, for which Khomeyni's message has high praise. The message concludes by wishing the deputies success.

Khamene'i on Gulf Crisis

LD281203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] President Khamene'i, after referring to the message by the imam of the nation, addressed the Majlis deputies and then spoke about domestic issues and the deputies' responsibilities regarding such issues.

Continuing his speech, the president said: Today, we are the axis and center of a great many decisions concerning general world policies. Our enemies have so far failed to assess the might of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The global arrogance has always paid for its miscalculations. Today, the global arrogance has decided to choose the Persian Gulf as a pressure point of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is yet another big mistake in global arrogance's calculations.

Khamene'i then emphasized: The policy pursued by the Islamic Republic of Iran is unambiguously aimed at tranquillity in the Persian Gulf. Under no circumstances do we favor tension and crisis in this vital region, nor do we welcome it. As for what has so far taken place, we never initiated it. Needless to say, the governments that both by promise and in practice have proved their unity with Iraq are trying, through propaganda outcries in the United Nations and other various assemblies, to conceal the criminal and obvious evidence of Iraq's acts. Iraq is trying to render our oil routes insecure. Naturally, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow this to happen.

The president pointed out: We are not asking the Persian Gulf governments for help; nor do we expect any help from anyone but God and our nation. However, we are asking them to remain neutral in this war. It is therefore quite natural that unless they do so, they will be forced to face the consequences. This is quite unavoidable.

Noting that the diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been frank and truthful, the president said: We do not wish to have a crisis. However, we will not tolerate bullying and unreasonable demands in the Persian Gulf under any circumstances. With God's blessing, we do have the power to cope with the crisis.

Saddam has no future or interests in the Persian Gulf to make him apprehensive of any crisis there. However, the existing friends of Iraq and Saddam do have considerable interests in the Persian Gulf. Oblivious to their problems, Saddam has insanely entered the arena through the weapons supplied to him by world powers, such as France and others, without any regard for their interests. The point is that they do not realize that should Saddam survive this, he would never show any gratitude.

The president then stressed: They have had experiences that show that the Iraqi regime is bullying and ambitious, that it believes in force and show of force. The Iraqi regime would never show any gratitude; rather it would try to bully them as well.

In conclusion, Khamene'i expressed the hope that the deputies of the second term of the Majlis would show decisiveness like that displayed by the deputies of the first term in tackling problems.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Reelected Speaker

LD291158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 May 84

[Excerpt] At this morning's open session of the Majlis, presided over by Sa'id Amani-Hamadani, elections to the provisional Board of Management of the Majlis were held. As a result, Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected Speaker with 196 votes, and Mohammad Yazdi and Mahdi Karrubi were elected deputy speakers, with 144 and 110 votes, respectively.

Foreign Ministry Denounces 'Zionist' Raids in Lebanon

GF280750 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has denounced the latest attacks by aircraft of the Zionist entity, which has usurped Jerusalem, on residential areas and concentrations of Lebanese

and Palestinian Muslim revolutionaries. The Ministry reiterated the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslim revolutionaries.

Hormuzgan Province Supports Country's Gulf Stance

LD271806 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA — The announcement of support by various classes of the people for the resolute stand of the Islamic Republic against Saddam's adventurism, on behalf of world oppression, in the Persian Gulf still continues.

The people of Hormuzgan Province, in the south of the country, were among the first groups who announced their support and stressed that they would stand against Saddam's instigations and the new U.S. conspiracies, through their massive demonstrations and marches. They also warned that they would foil this conspiracy.

Following this announcement, people of various parts of the country staged marches and demonstrations in condemnation of this Iraqi adventurism and issued a strong warning against its consequences. They also announced their readiness for countering the plot.

Reports on Visit of Austrian Foreign Minister Lanc

President Khamene'i Receives Lanc

LD271413 Tehran IRNA in English 1402 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA — The Austrian Foreign Affairs Minister Erwin Lanc, currently in Iran heading a political and economic delegation, met and conferred with President 'Ali Khamene'i here this morning.

During the meeting, which was also attended by the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and other officials of the Ministry, the Austrian foreign minister talked about the foreign policy of Austria as a neutral country. He said that the Austrian foreign policy principles did not mean indifference towards injustice, and it was in this context that his government took a decisive stance on the deployment of the chemical warfare by the Iraqi regime against Iran. He further pointed out that his government condemned the action.

President 'Ali Khamene'i pointed out that the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was based on independence from power poles. Therefore, in political relations, countries with neutral stance were given priority, he added. As a result, he said, there was a possibility for further expansion of trade, technical, and political relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Austria.

The president also expressed appreciation on the righteous stance of the Austrian Government vis-a-vis Iraq's use of chemical weapons. Unfortunately, the president said, the Iraqi regime continues to use these weapons. But probably if there was no international reaction towards this action, the Iraqi regime would have used them against Iranian cities as well, he added.

President Khamene'i, who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, added that the Islamic Republic of Iran was of the opinion that if there was realistic and rational stance against aggression in any part of the world, then there would be a noticable decrease in cases of aggression. One of the reasons for continuation of the Iraqi-imposed war was that those governments which could have condemned this flagrant aggression had not taken a solid stance towards it.

Further on the issue of the war, he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had to defend itself and at present its stance was a defensive one. Most of the realities of the war have been distorted by propaganda apparatus related to power blocs.

At the end he added that the war has caused great losses for the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Iran was of the view that big world powers were involved in it.

The Austrian foreign minister arrived in Tehran Saturday.

Velayati Meets With Lanc

LD271648 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA — The Iranian people, with their bitter experience from the superpowers' influence during the reign of the former regime, would counter the expansionism of these powers everywhere in the world, said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting with his Austrian counterpart, Erwin Lanc, here today. The Iranian foreign minister stressed that this was the most important achievement of the Islamic Republic.

Dr Velayati said that the policy of 'neither East nor West' which was among the first slogans of the nation in their demonstrations against the former regime was continued after the downfall of the defunct shah and the cutting of the U.S. domination over the country. However, Velayati said, Iran's getting rid of the U.S. did not result in its accepting of the domination of another superpower. But in the light of the fact that this phenomenon is not accepted by the superpowers who have divided the world among themselves, therefore they are active against the Islamic Republic with all their power, he added. These activities include various political and economic grounds, the most important of which is the aggression of foreign forces against the Islamic Republic, Velayati said.

In another part of his speech, Foreign Minister Velayati said the Islamic Republic was in favour of relations with various countries based on the preservation of sovereignty and mutual respect. In doing so, he added, relations with Austria with regards to its neutral policy was important to the Islamic Republic.

The Austrian foreign minister in response outlined the stands of his country and said that his government followed an active neutral policy. In implementation of the policy, Lanc said, the Austrian Government supported politically the liberation movements, and for this very reason, he added, Austrian confirmed the struggles of the Palestinian nation for gaining liberation and independence. "As we did not hesitate a moment in condemning the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, likewise we did not wait

in rejecting economic sanctions against Iran by the United States," he said. The two sides also stressed the expansion of mutual relations during the meeting.

Prime Minister Sees Lanc

LD271948 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today said the Islamic Republic was very much reluctant at the injustice done towards the Islamic Republic by the superpowers regarding Persian Gulf security. He said, "We are very much repulsed at the injustice made by world arrogance. They condemn us (Iran) at a time when Iraq is continuously attacking ships (in the Persian Gulf) and it openly takes pride (for such attacks). This is total injustice."

The prime minister made the remark during a meeting with visiting Austrian Foreign Minister Ervin Lanc, who expressed his concern over current tensions in the Persian Gulf.

At the same time, Musavi reiterated that the Islamic Republic would strongly resist any crisis facing it in the region. "We were born in crises and hardships. We will gladly accept the most severe tribulations...and certainly the will of such a nation against the decaying strength...of America and its allies is victorious." "There is not a single doubt in our mind regarding the victory of Muslims."

He said the Persian Gulf states had not welcomed Iran's sincere intentions but had rather "defended Saddam's aggression in various ways, despite the fact that they were very weak and extremely vulnerable against a small crisis." "We have shown much tolerance," he added. "From the very beginning of the (Iraqi aggression, our nation has said that in order to establish lasting peace, the aggressor must be punished, not awarded. Saddam's crimes are not forgivable from our nation's view."

Other matters discussed in the talks were relations between the two countries. Musavi said Austria's independent policy in Europe could be a strong basis for the expansion of bilateral ties.

Foreign Minister Lanc Departs

LD271949 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc concluded his 24-hour visit to the Islamic Republic this evening after talks with Iranian leaders. He told IRNA at the airport that in talks concerning important developments in the region, both sides did not agree on every issue but said satisfactory results had been achieved for the expansion of economic and cultural relations.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who was there to bid farewell to his counterpart, said because of Austria's neutral policies Iran gave priority to its relations with it. He said meetings between Mr. Lanc and Iranian officials were useful for the expansion of political, economic, and cultural ties.

Velayati added that the Austrian economic officials would stay on to continue their talks with commerce, oil, and transportation officials.

Trade Exchange Increase Planned

GF290631 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] At the end of the official trip by the economic-political delegation from Austria, which was headed by the foreign minister of that country, the minutes of the discussions over expansion of economic and commercial ties was signed by the deputy ministers of commerce of both countries.

According to this discussion, the volume of exchange during the current year will reach $1.150 billion, which is $150 million more than last year. The exchanges will be mutual and will be made through a special account. Export of Iranian petroleum and nonpetroleum products to Austria has been estimated at around $650 million, while Iran's imports are valued at around $500 million and include metals, wood, paper, machinery, spare parts, and electrical equipment. Discussions were also held between the Austrian delegation and officials from the Commerce, Industry, Labor, Agriculture, and Reconstruction Crusade Ministries, as well as the Railway Organization, over transfer of technical and technological knowledge and joint economic and technical cooperation.

Foreign Minister Velayati Departs for Bulgaria

LD280849 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA — Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Bulgaria this morning for an official visit. During his stay in Bulgaria, the foreign minister is due to meet and hold talks with political officials of that country.

Prior to his departure Velayati told reporters at Mehrabad Airport that the trip is for the expansion of political and trade ties of Iran and Bulgaria. He added that mutual ties were expanding after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, and delegations at ministerial level and other high-ranking officials from both countries had exchanged visits.

Dr. Velayati added that Bulgaria had always supported Iran's anti-imperialist stance, and the expansion of the two countries' relations was in the interest of the both sides and noted that visits would further strengthen the mutual ties. Concerning economic relations, he said that Bulgaria is cooperating with Iran in several agricultural projects and would export agricultural products to Iran and in return import oil and other goods from Iran. He said that in his visit with the main objective to further expand political ties, other issues also would be followed up.

Velayati, who is being accompanied by the Foreign Ministry's director general on America and European affairs, was seen off by the Bulgarian ambassador in Tehran and officials of his ministry.

Velayati Meets With Mladenov

For Bulgarian and Iranian reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Sofia, including his talks with Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov, see the Bulgaria section of the 29 May Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

More on Visit by Pakistani Interior Minister

Musavi Receives Haroon

LD251546 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — Pakistan's Minister of Interior Mahmud Haroon met with President 'Ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic and handed him a written message from his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The Pakistani delegate also expressed the hope that the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian people attain prosperity.

President Khamene'i also emphasised that Iran-Pakistan historical and cultural affinities made it all the more necessary to expand the existing relations between the two countries.

The Pakistani minister also met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on Thursday and discussed with him bilaterial relations between the two countries. Topics discussed included the expansion of Iran-Pakistan relations as well as the joint efforts to combat drug smuggling in the borders between the two countries.

The Pakistani minister expressed the hope that the existing crisis in the region would be resolved and calm and peace would be reestablished.

In response Prime Minister Musavi emphasised on the close cultural and historical connections between Iran and Pakistan and said that future relations between the two countries looked hopeful. Speaking about the present situation in the Persian Gulf, the prime minister said that the war has reached a dangerous stage because of the recent overt support which the reactionary regimes have given the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad.

"The Ba'th Party would not be able to resist one day if it were not for the financial and political support of the reactionary regimes," the prime minister said.

Ministers View Border Issues

LD261510 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — The interior minister, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, in a meeting here today with his visiting Pakistani counterpart Mahmud Haroon, discussed issues related to borders between the two countries, extradition of criminals and curtailing activities of the drug smugglers. Both sides also agreed to set up a special committee to pursue any probable border issues.

The Pakistani interior minister arrived in Tehran last Wednesday.

Oil Sale Agreement Signed With CSSR

LD281209 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] The Czechoslovak minister of fuels and power, who is currently visiting Tehran at the head of a delegation, met and conferred with Minister of Petroleum Gharazi at noon today. In the course of the meeting, also attended by the CSSR ambassador to Tehran, bilateral economic and oil issues were discussed.

At the end of the meeting, the oil minister said: We have signed an agreement with Czechoslovakia for the sale of 700,000 metric tons of crude oil, to be delivered in the current year [year ending 20 March 1985]. He then added: Issues related to the CSSR gas industry were among the topics discussed during the meeting. He then expressed his gratitude for the participation of CSSR experts at the international scientific seminar studying the effects of the oil slick in the Persian Gulf.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,737

LD251815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 84

[Communique No 1,737 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Over the past 24 hours, heavy arms fire was exchanged along the entire length of the front lines in the northwest theater of operations, and return fire by our artillery units set ablaze three observation posts and one ammunition dump belonging to the Saddamist forces in the area. Thirty-five Iraqi troops were killed.

In the western operational theater, our combatant forces, while defending their positions, fired on two trucks carrying Iraqi mercenaries, destroying them. Exchanges in the western sector were at their most intense at Qasr-e Shirin.

In the southern operational sector, enemy artillery and armored units were pounded by our artillery units. Moreover, our forces fired upon enemy engineers in this region, halting their operations.

In the operational sector of Abadan and Khorramshahr, our fighting units directed their fire on enemy positions on the west bank of the Arvand Rud, as a result of which a command personnel vehicle and 17 trenches and foxholes belonging to the aggressors were destroyed, and one garrison suffered damage.

The Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq yesterday shelled residential districts of Abadan, destroying 11 houses and one shop.

Communique No 1,738

LD261823 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 May 84

[Communique No 1,738 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the past 24 hours exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire were continuing between our forces and the Saddamist mercenaries on the western and northwestern fronts. They were more intense in the Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar regions. The combatants of Islam with continuous effort and devotion brought all the operational, supply, and construction movements and activities of the enemy under full control and surveillance. By dispatching patrol groups and opening accurate artillery and mortar fire, they inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries on every front. Pounding parts of the enemy's positions and trenches and killing a number of their servicemen, our forces also completely destroyed a number of the Saddamists' vehicles on one of the western fronts and killed their occupants.

At 1900 on 24 May our forces and patrol groups sighted an enemy patrol unit of 25 men in an area to the west of the (Deylej) River; the enemy patrol fled, suffering losses and casualties as a result of our forces' fire.

During a series of exchanges of fire on the Arvand Rud and (Zubaydat) fronts, the fire of Iraqi forces was silenced by the combatants of Islam. The fire of our forces on the enemy's mobile units and supply vehicles inflicted losses and casualties on them. The forces of Islam put several tanks of the Saddamist forces out of action, set fire to several of their trenches, and killed or wounded a number of their crew. Our forces also hit an enemy boat patrol and forced it to flee.

Yesterday the city of Abadan came under the fire of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries; as a result, several houses and shops and parts of the city were damaged.

Communique No 1,739

LD271722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 May 84

[Communique No 1,739 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the past 24 hours, in the Hajj 'Umran operational region the combatants of Islam opened fire on enemy positions and destroyed 19 observation posts, foxholes, and trenches of the Iraqi forces. In addition, our forces killed or wounded at least 58 enemy personnel. In the Piranshah and Sardasht operational regions exchanges of fire continued and our units, while consolidating and establishing their respective positions, opened fire and killed 20 of the Saddamist forces and destroyed a machine gun belonging to the mercenaries. In the Marivan and Panjwin operational regions, our combative forces opened fire on artillery positions and enemy entrenchments, as a result of which enemy fire was silenced and 50 of the aggressors were either killed or wounded.

In the southern operational region, exchanges of fire continued yesterday and our forces maintained the upper hand. In the Chazzabeh region, 40 enemy infantry personnel were detected; our forces opened fire and the enemy forces, after suffering a number of casualties, were forced to flee. In the same region, the activities of engineering personnel of the enemy were disrupted as a result of execution of fire by our forces. Eight enemy foxholes and trenches west of Arvand Rud were set ablaze and destroyed.

Yesterday as a result of enemy fire using long range weapons, four houses, seven shops, and one school in the residential districts of Abadan sustained some damage.

Communique No 1,740

LD281731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 May 84

[Communique No 1,740 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the exchange of fire on the Piranshah and Hajj 'Umran fronts our victorious forces killed at least 10 Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries and stopped their vehicles.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam the fighters of the Ground Forces, while defending their position and further strengthening and expanding them, fired on enemy patrols and supply and communications units. They repulsed the operations, stopped the movement of the enemy patrols, and inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces in each of the fronts.

At 2230 and 2300 hours 26 May, two Iraqi patrol groups were trying to infiltrate the positions of our forces in Mehran and Sumar regions, but our vigilant and alert fighters were ready, and their fire forced the enemy patrol units to flee after suffering some losses and casualties.

In the southern fronts of the country the exchange of sporadic fire continued between our forces and the enemy, and the exchange of fire was more intense in Hoseyniyeh and (Zeyd) post. In these fronts the fighters of Islam composed of the heroic forces of the Ground Forces, the Navy and Gendarmerie, while controlling enemy operations and movements, especially in Fao-Basra axis, silenced the fire of the Iraqi forces and neutralized their aerial activities. By sending patrol groups and with timely and accurate fire, they inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy. According to the report of the Gendarmerie in the Arvand Rud area, in addition to the destruction of more than 13 light and heavy weapons bunkers, one of the Iraqi loaders and one of their mortar-launchers were destroyed and a number of Iraqi personnel were killed or wounded.

Yesterday, as on the previous days, Abadan came under the fire of enemy long-range weapons, causing damage to a number of houses and shops.

Khorramshahr Attack Kills Civilian
LD282142 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Ahvaz, May 28, IRNA — A civilian was martyred and three others wounded this morning as residential areas of the southern Iranian port city of Khorramshahr were heavily hit by Iraqi heavy weapons fire.

The injured inhabitants were immediately transfered to hospital, while the attacks also caused fires in some sectors.

Iran's other southern city of Abadan was subjected to Iraqi long-range artillery fire which damaged eight homes and a mosque as well as setting two sectors afire over the past 24 hours.

President Khamene'i Receives Navy Commander
LD261127 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — Commander of the Navy Esfandiyar Hoseyni met and conferred with President 'Ali Khamene'i Saturday morning.

During the meeting the commander submitted a report concerning situation of the naval force, Persian Gulf issues, and measures taken towards self-sufficiency of the naval force.

President Khamene'i issued necessary instructions on the issues.

New Air Traffic Control System Expands Gulf Control
LD261248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 May 84

[Excerpts] The new air traffic control system became operational this morning during a ceremony attended by Roads and Transport Minister Hadinezhad-Hoseynian, the supervisor of Civil Aviation, and a number of directors and staff of the organization. The modern equipment, in addition to increasing the quantity of service, will also improve the quality of traffic control across the country. Furthermore, the various remote control radio channels will lead to direct contact between control centers and aircraft flying in the region as well as control units throughout the country's airports. The increase in the existing capability will not only meet the requirements of the country's skies, but will also expand the sphere of control over the Persian Gulf space and waters.

IRGC, Mobilisation Forces Rally, Affirm Readiness
LD251542 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — Hundreds of thousands of basij forces and Islamic Revolution Guards staged military marches in Tehran and dozens of small and large towns in the Islamic Republic today. They announced their readiness to confront adventurist actions in the Persian Gulf.

In Tehran, the basij forces wore a white shroud symbolising their readiness for martyrdom in the cause of Islam. They carried placards in Farsi and English saying "We will make the Persian Gulf a graveyard for aggressors if the United States attacks," and "we will defend Islam to the last drop of our blood."

Similar marches were held in Ilam and seven smaller towns in that province, and in Mashhad, Karaj, Rafsanjan, Kerman, Zarand, Kahnoukm Baft, Jiroft, Bam, Sirjan, Shahre Babak, Bardsir as well as major towns in Sistan va Baluchistan Province.

Meanwhile, in Qom, the chairman of the Assembly of Experts and the friday prayers leader of the city, Ayatollah 'Ali Meskini, said the Muslim people of Iran were not intimidated by threats from the East and West powers concerning Persian Gulf security.

He said: "The Iranian nation is standing firmly and will speak out (to safeguard its interests). Certainly, a nation with faith in God will be victorious."

Rebel Groups Purged From West Azarbaijan Villages
LD251825 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan Province, May 25, IRNA — The Islamic combatants purged 20 villages north of Mahabad in West Azarbaijan Province in the first stage of an operation carried out last Thursday.

According to a military communique issued by the Hamze Seyyed-e Shohada headquarters this evening, 65 counterrevolutionary rebels were killed, including a number of group leaders, and 80 were wounded. Among the 20 villages names, Kakhuzan was a centre for the Komaleh counterrevolutionary group.

The communique said a number of weapons and ammunition depots along with clothing and food were seized in the operation.

It called on the deviated members of the rebel groups to surrender to Islam, "before it is too late."

Oil Spills on Continental Shelf Said Contained
LD262335 Tehran IRNA in English 1852 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — The managing director of the Continental Shelf Company of Iran Mr. Aqa'ie announced today that by containing the oil spill from the No 10 Nowruz oil well on April 3 in the Persian Gulf, no more oil is spilled from oil wells in the continental shelf of Iran.

Talking at a televised press interview, he further noted that three other oil wells which are ablaze in the oil platform No 5 burn out about 10,000 barrels of oil per day without spilling. He said there are programmes under way for containing the same wells.

Mr. Aqa'ie also noted that the containing of the oil wells by Iranian experts and specialists was a technological victory for the Islamic Republic against the U.S. technology, who counts itself to be the sole authorized country to tackle such operation.

Before April 3d, about 5,000 bpd of oil spewing from Nowruz oil well No 10 burned out and about 1,000 bpd of its oil gushed out onto the Persian Gulf water for more than one year.

Oil Spill Conference Declaration Condemns Iraq

LD262137 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — The Iraqi regime was "strongly condemned" for its attacks on oil wells and related installations in the Persian Gulf in the final declaration of the international conference on the impact of oil spill in the Persian Gulf here today.

The declaration "emphasised on the necessity to compile laws and regulations regarding the prohibition of willful destruction of oil wells and related installations."

"The Persian Gulf, with its particular fragile and vulnerable ecological characteristics, has been under and unprecedented threat by oil pollution caused by the destruction of oil wells and related installations," it said.

"The attack on the oil wells and related installations in the Persian Gulf by the Iraqi regime was strongly condemned."

The conference, organised by Tehran University, began May 20th with the participation of scientific delegations from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, East Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq (non-government), Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Sri Lanka, Sweden. Syria, Turkey, the United States, West Germany, and Yugoslavia. Six international organisations also took part.

The ten-point declaration called on the U.N. secretary general to conduct comprehensive studies to evaluate the impact of the oil spill on the marine environment of the Persian Gulf. It said fundamental measures should be taken to prevent oil pollution there in the short and long terms.

Iraq attacked Iranian offshore oil wells on several instances last year, damaging a number of them. Tens of thousands of barrels of oil leaked from the wells before they were capped by Iranian Oil Ministry specialists.

The conference participants were also taken on scientific tours including the Urumiyeh Lake in the northwest and the Caspian Sea area.

USSR Rejects Country's Entries in Film Festival

LD262143 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — Soviet officials have refused the entry of two Iranian films in the Tashkent film festival.

A full-length film about the liberation of a man from the materialistic aspects of the world, named "Diare-e Asheqan" (Lovers' Land), and a short-length film "Sorud-e Moqavemat" (The Song of Resistance), about the reaction of a young boy to the devastations caused by Iraqi attacks, were due to be screened in the festival from May 23 through June 2.

However, the Soviet festival organisers refused their entry on the grounds that the two films were not in line with the festival's theme of "promoting peace, social progress, and the liberation of mankind."

Such baseless excuses are being expressed by a country whose leaders have encouraged war-mongering, enslaved the people of Afghanistan, and supplied its deadly missiles to Iraq for attacks on Iranian civilian areas.